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GAZETTE

Vol. 69, No. 1, 2007
www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Finding the pattern

What we can learn from the behavioural sciences

REALITY CHECK
Dispelling the myths about criminal profiling

SERIAL MURDER
How police caught the "BTK" killer

CHILD EYEWITNESSES
The dos and don'ts of interviewing children

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

Deciphering behaviour

How much do our actions reveal? It's an interesting question—one that researchers and experts worldwide study at length to better understand what our patterns of behaviour tell about us. And law enforcement agencies have not passed up the opportunity to use this valuable information in their work.

For decades, police agencies have used such tools as polygraph testing, strategic interviewing techniques, criminal and geographic profiling, database analysis and threat assessment to capture these patterns and see what they might reveal. In this issue of the *Gazette*, we explore how police are using this information and expert advice in criminal investigations.

We begin with the RCMP's Behavioural Sciences Branch and the insight its members have brought to an ongoing serial murder investigation in Alberta. While investigators continue to comb through evidence and narrow the list of suspects, learn how this complex case has benefited from the latest behavioural science tools.

We also look at the high-profile "BTK Killer" investigation, a serial sexual murder case in Wichita, Kansas, that police solved in 2005—31 years after the killings began. Two agents from the FBI's Behavioural Analysis Unit discuss how recent developments in the field—and collaboration between analysts and investigators—finally tipped the scales in their favour.

For the ins and outs on criminal profiling, Sgt Pierre Nezan, an RCMP criminal investigative analyst, dispels five myths about profiling that are propagated by pop culture and sometimes even police themselves. And, in a special two-page Q&A, former FBI profiler Roy Hazelwood talks about his 20 years working some of the most challenging violent crime cases around the world.

Linking unsolved violent crimes with similar cases can be a critical tool to help investigators narrow a long list of suspects. Learn how the RCMP's Violent Crimes Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS) is helping police in Canada and abroad put two and two together. In New Zealand, police use their own searchable national database in conjunction with ViCLAS to prioritize suspects. One recent case shows the success of that approach.

Meanwhile, Sean Sutton of the U.K.'s Serious Crime Analysis Section talks about how analysts there are working to ensure their reports contain practical information that is well understood by the investigators who receive it.

Police also clearly benefit from the expertise of those working outside the law enforcement community.

Joanna Pozzulo is a researcher at Carleton University in Ottawa who studies techniques for interviewing child eyewitnesses. Find out the dos and don'ts of getting the most accurate information from young people.

We also hear from an expert in threat assessment and trauma response who works with police and educators to prevent violence in schools. On the heels of the Dawson College shooting in Montreal, Kevin Cameron talks about the importance of training police, school administrators and counsellors to identify signs of student violence and intervene before it escalates.

Although there is still much to learn about human behaviour, police are taking what is known and applying that knowledge with promising results. We hope this issue on the behavioural sciences sheds some light on these tools and how they can provide support to investigators and insight into an offender's actions. After all, as one RCMP profiler reminds us, nothing about our behaviour is random.

—Katherine Aldred

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GAZETTE

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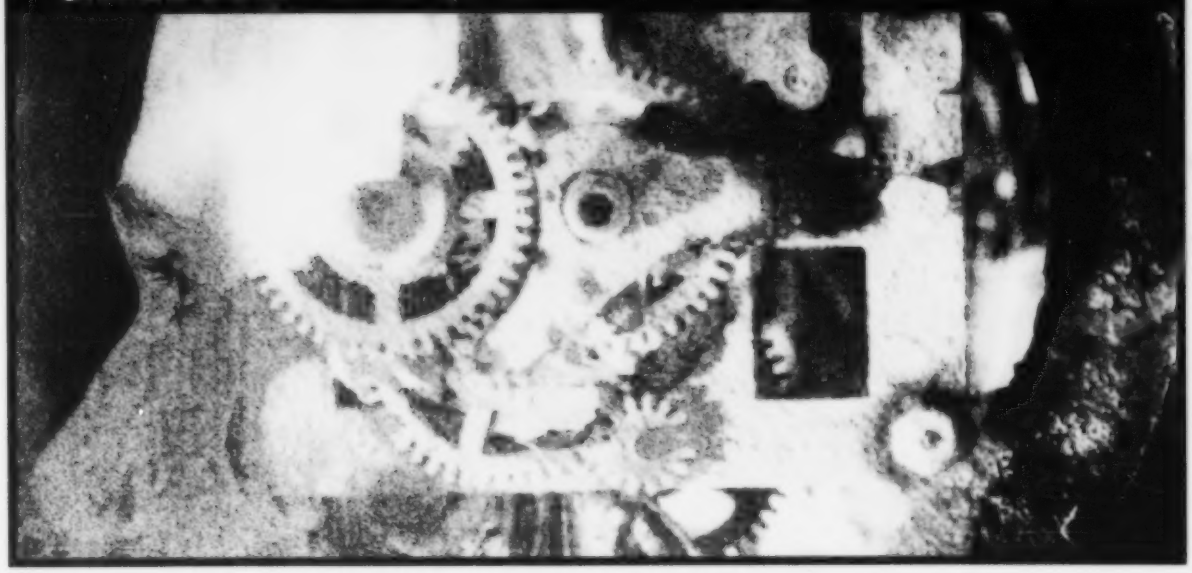
Vol. 69, No. 1, 2007 — A Royal Canadian Mounted Police Publication



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ON THE COVER

Getting insight into an offender's thoughts and actions, interviewing witnesses and linking violent crimes are all tools that can help bring focus to a complex criminal investigation. Many investigators are now turning to the behavioural sciences for this support, and they are sold on the results.

NUMBERING

Please note there will be no Vol. 68, No. 4 of the *Gazette*.

PUBLISHER – Nancy Sample EDITOR – Katherine Aldred GRAPHIC DESIGN – Jennifer Wale
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND CIRCULATION – Steve Lusignan TRANSLATION – RCMP Translation Services PRINTING – Performance Printing

The *Gazette* (ISSN 1196-6513) is published in English and French by the Public Affairs and Communication Services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Ottawa. Cover design and contents are copyrighted and no part of this publication may be reproduced without written consent. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement 40064068. The *Gazette* is published four (4) times a year and is issued free of charge on a limited basis to accredited police forces and agencies within the criminal justice system. Personal subscriptions are not available. The *Gazette* welcomes contributions, letters, articles and comments in either official language. We reserve the right to edit for length, content and clarity. HOW TO REACH US : Editor — RCMP Gazette, L.H. Nicholson Building, Rm A200, 1200 Vanier Parkway, Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1A 0R2. Phone: (613) 998-6307, E-mail: gazette@rcmp-grc.gc.ca, Fax: (613) 993-3098, Internet: www.gazette.rcmp.gc.ca.

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NEW TOOL MEASURES DISRUPTION TO OC

Law enforcement officials talk a lot about disruption. Now they have a way of showing it.

The RCMP's Federal and International Operations Directorate (FIO) has developed a tool that allows the RCMP to track the number and level of disruptions to targeted organized crime groups.

"The Disruption Attributes Tool is a standard, systematic way of recording and reporting the disruption of organized crime groups," says Karene Saad, FIO's research manager behind the project.

The tool, or DAT as it's often called, is a short, easy-to-complete form filled out by field personnel and returned to HQ. The results are tabulated, tracked and compiled into reports that, at a glance, provide an overview of the relative success of multiple ongoing projects.

The DAT looks at three areas within the structure of a criminal organization — core business, finance and personnel — and scores each based on the level of disruption following an operation. The level is rated either high, medium, low, nil or unknown at present, depending on how severely the crime group was affected.

For instance, when assessing disruption to an organization's finances, if police removed its ability to mount large-scale operations, the disruption level would be high. However, if no financial assets were seized, financial disruption would be nil.

Courtesy the Journal de Montréal

Using the Disruption Attributes Tool, police can assess the level of disruption to an organization's finances, such as this property seizure during Project Colisée.

The disruption tool has already become an important component in assessing the effectiveness of operations to counter organized crime. The RCMP is looking to expand its use of the DAT to indicate the levels of disruption in more operations.

The tool has a number of benefits. Once the information is compiled and analyzed, the results can be used to produce divisional, regional and national reports that provide a snapshot of the RCMP's operational impact on organized crime groups. Furthermore, as the RCMP is accountable for showing the effectiveness of its operations, it can do this with the DAT while protecting sensitive operational information.

"Now that we have the DAT, we have a way of showing the disruption of illicit organizations in a way that's consistent over time. This goes a long way towards demonstrating our effectiveness and stewardship of resources, two critical components of our accountability framework," says Assistant Commissioner of FIO Raf Souccar.

—Donald Dawson

NEW CANADIAN ADDITIONS TO INTERPOL

Two Canadian police agencies have joined Interpol's I-24/7 a global police communications system that connects law enforcement officials in 186 countries, enabling them to share crucial information on criminals and criminal activities.

The RCMP manages Interpol Ottawa, which is the central co-ordination point for Canadian police agencies pursuing criminal investigations abroad. Until recently, the RCMP was the only Canadian agency to access I-24/7. That changed in July when the Sûreté du Québec became the first provincial police force in Canada to connect. York Regional Police is the latest addition and the first municipal agency in Canada to have access.

"Given the diversity of our region and the number of incidents with international connections, this will be a fantastic tool for us," says Det. Constable Tony Cummins of York Regional Police. "Working in intelligence, we're always looking for different credible sources of information."

Using I-24/7, agencies can search and cross-reference data in a matter of seconds. They have access to databases containing information on suspected terrorists, wanted persons, fingerprints, DNA profiles, stolen motor vehicles, lost and stolen travel documents and more.

With a growing network of criminals and criminal organizations working across borders, this system is changing the way law enforcement agencies around the world work together. Information from a criminal investigation that might have appeared unrelated, can be pieced together across the globe through this database.

Interpol is now encouraging member countries to extend their connections to all types of law enforcement entities, such as border police, customs and immigration.

—Melanie Roush

ANALYZE THIS

Four police officers from Ontario, Virginia, Florida and South Carolina spent a week last fall analyzing crime scenes under the supervision of OPP Det/Sgt Jim Van Allen and RCMP Sgt Pierre Nezan, both criminal profilers.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the RCMP pooled their skills to offer the training sessions to International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship understudies.

"We try to share our expertise as much as we can," says Nezan. "The only difference is our shoulder flashes; otherwise, we're doing the same job."

That job involves analyzing crime scenes and providing behavioural or geographic profiles of unknown serious offenders to police investigators. Profilers, also known as criminal investigative analysts, are typically brought in to shed light on violent cases such as sexual assaults and homicides.

"We try to reconstruct the crime scene," says Nezan. "We look at the interaction between the offender and the victim, and where the violence is focused." He says the objective is to understand what the offender was thinking during the crime, based on evidence at the scene.

Nezan and Van Allen presented several solved and unsolved cases to the understudies to help them develop those analytical skills.

Special Agent Jon Cromer of the Violent Crimes Unit at the Virginia State Police has been training to become a criminal profiler since October 2005.

"This has been by far the most practical information I've learned in the past year," says Cromer. "The relatively small number of participants really allowed us the opportunity to go slowly and linger on the information."

Aside from attending these shorter training sessions, all understudies must also complete three formal one-month internships before becoming full-fledged profilers.

Det/Sgt Jim Van Allen

RCMP Sgt Pierre Nezan, a criminal profiler, guides Special Agent Jon Cromer of the Virginia State Police through some crime-scene analysis.

—Katherine Aldred

BEWARE OF VISHING

Just as members of the public are becoming shrewd about phishing, they have one more scam to worry about: vishing.

Similar to phishing, in which an e-mail message directs someone to a fake website and prompts them for personal information, vishing or voice phishing directs a person to an illegitimate telephone number.

This relatively new scam uses an inexpensive technology known as Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP), which allows fraud artists to make blanket telephone calls from anywhere in the world pretending to be a legitimate business. The incoming phone call often uses a fraudulent caller ID matching the identity of the misrepresented company.

The best defense against vishing is to treat any unsolicited telephone message with suspicion.

According to Sgt Michel Haché of the RCMP's Commercial Crime Branch, fraud artists are using inexpensive VOIP phones to direct unsuspecting victims to a telephone number where they are tricked into giving up personal information.

"It's not being used very frequently yet, but it could develop the same growth curve as phishing," says Haché. "What's most insidious is that the scammers will reach people who don't necessarily have computers and get them to enter their bank account information using the touch tone pad of their phone."

A typical vishing scam works like this: thieves will leave an urgent recorded message—for example, telling the person their credit card has been breached—and urge them to call "the following telephone number immediately" and punch in their 16-digit account number to verify their identity. Using VOIP technology, con artists can capture and misuse the numeric information provided.

Those who have fallen for the trap have given up their social insurance numbers, driver's licence and health card numbers, bank login IDs, and even their credit card information.

RCMP Cpl Louis Robertson, who works at the Phonebusters National Call Centre, says while vishing remains a relatively small problem so far, it highlights the need to better educate the public.

"Vishing is one component of telephone and Internet fraud," says Robertson. "We cannot fight these scams one on one. We need to go into the schools and educate the youngsters on how to use the Internet safely. If we don't, we'll be in serious trouble."

—Katherine Aldred

For more information, please visit ***www.rcmp.ca/scams/vishing_e.htm*** or ***www.phonebusters.com***

Aboriginal CFSEU makes a dent in organized crime

By RCMP Sgt Larry Aitken
Aboriginal CFSEU

In 2002, the RCMP, the Sûreté du Québec (SQ, Quebec's provincial police force) and the First Nations Chiefs of Police in Quebec were facing a critical organized crime problem that was impacting communities across the province, the country and internationally. In particular, organized crime groups were having a socially detrimental effect on Quebec's Aboriginal communities.

The intelligence clearly showed that certain exterior criminal factions were taking advantage of the insulated environment of the Aboriginal communities to promote their illicit activities. First Nations police officers needed proper training while the RCMP and SQ needed to build stronger ties with the Aboriginal communities to combat these traditional organized crime groups.

Innovative approach

Police were looking for an innovative approach to help these communities in their battle against organized crime. Given the increased deterioration of the social stability of various Aboriginal communities and a request for assistance by the Association of First Nations Chiefs of Police of Quebec (AFNCPQ), in May 2004 the RCMP in collaboration with the SQ and the AFNCPQ created the first Aboriginal Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU).

CFSEUs have proven successful when used as solid investigational platforms from which police agencies can attack and destabilize organized crime. Collaborating police services can share human, financial and material resources to improve communications, co-ordinate and centralize investigations, and enhance the sharing of criminal intelligence, expertise and best practices.

The principal mandate of those involved in this particular integrated project is to provide safe homes and safe communities, and to maintain peace, order and public security within the province of Quebec.

The Aboriginal CFSEU mission is the following:

- identify the structure of the various criminal cells and demonstrate their relationship to existing criminal organizations
- investigate, disrupt, prosecute and dismantle Aboriginal organized crime
- support and develop training initiatives for Aboriginal police officers
- encourage peace and social stability in Aboriginal communities
- build confidence through partnerships
- promote exposure to Aboriginal culture and customs

A Steering Committee composed of senior officers of the RCMP, SQ and AFNCPQ ensures that the unit uses its existing resources efficiently by prioritizing and co-ordinating police operations that target organized crime.

The success of the Aboriginal CFSEU is largely due to its design and delivery. It provides a quality training atmosphere, which promotes the sustained integration of First Nations police officers in organized crime investigations that touch Aboriginal communities. The CFSEU incorporates the First Nations Organized Crime Initiative. This initiative, which is funded by the Federal Minister of Public Security and Emergency Preparedness Canada, promotes the sustained training of First Nations officers in the battle against organized crime.

Jean Côté, Sûreté du Québec

In October, the Aboriginal CFSEU was awarded the International Association of Chiefs of Police Motorola Webber Seavey Award, which recognizes innovative policing programs. From left are Sgt Larry Aitken, RCMP C Division (Quebec); AFNCPQ President Gorden McGregor; and Insp Yves Trudel, SQ.

Results

Since its inception, the Aboriginal CFSEU has shown an incredible track record. Within a period of 13 months, 3 major organized crime projects have led to the arrest of more than 100 individuals. In addition, police have seized in excess of $10 million dollars and more than 500 criminal charges including gangsterism have been laid.

The Aboriginal CFSEU provides a broad portrait of the organized crime situation by centralizing the flow of criminal intelligence and by co-ordinating Aboriginal organized crime projects throughout the province. It also complements other organized crime units and encourages the use of crime prevention programs within the communities.

As a direct result of the ongoing successes of the Aboriginal CFSEU, the RCMP in collaboration with the Federal Minister of Public Security and Emergency Preparedness Canada, anticipates adopting Aboriginal CFSEUs across Canada to battle Aboriginal organized crime. The key to its success is its capacity and potential for portability. ■

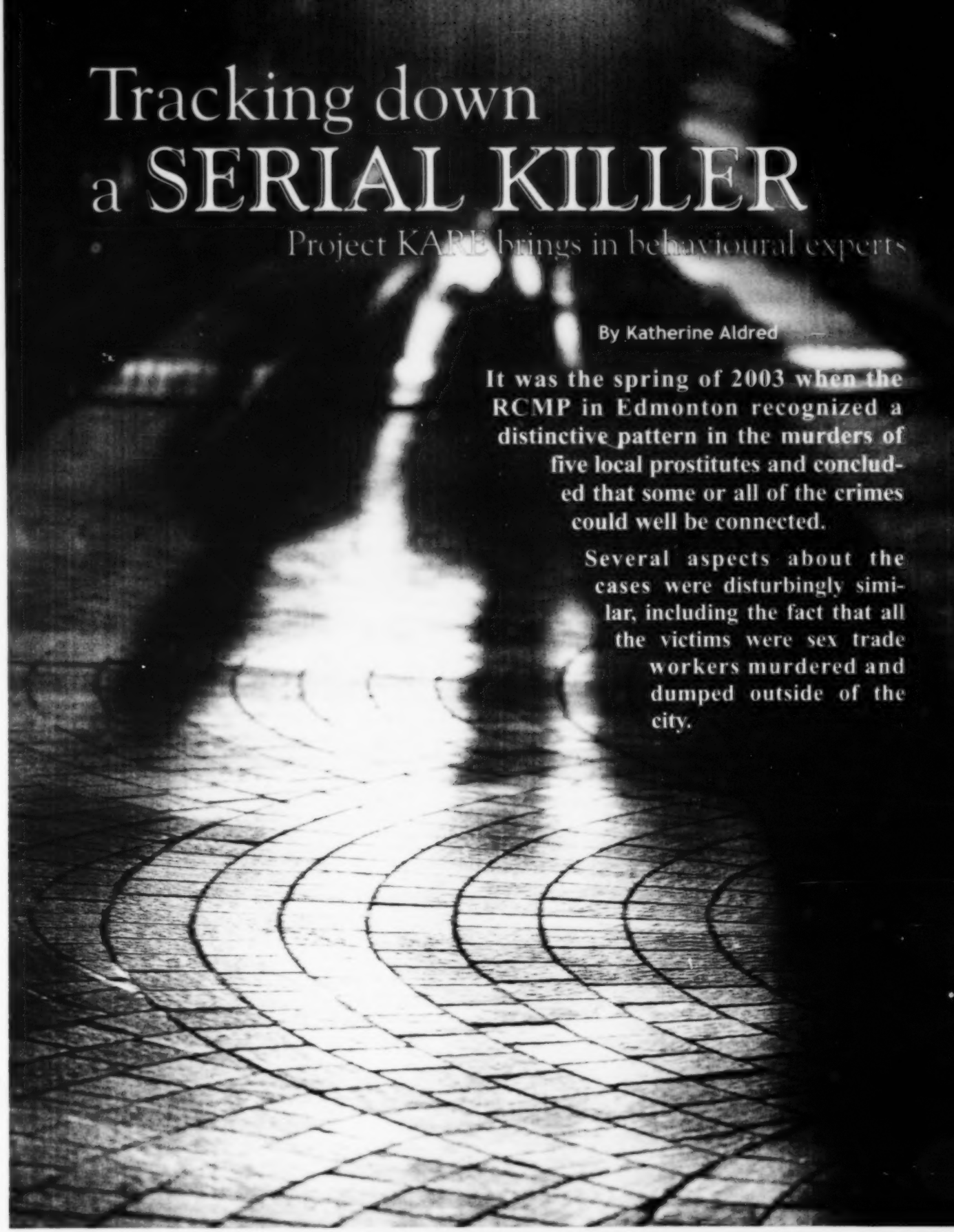
Tracking down a SERIAL KILLER

Project KARE brings in behavioural experts

By Katherine Aldred

It was the spring of 2003 when the RCMP in Edmonton recognized a distinctive pattern in the murders of five local prostitutes and concluded that some or all of the crimes could well be connected.

Several aspects about the cases were disturbingly similar, including the fact that all the victims were sex trade workers murdered and dumped outside of the city.



Sex trade workers are particularly vulnerable to violent crime. Many of these women are addicted to drugs, will willingly step into a stranger's vehicle and are less likely to be noticed missing until long after they disappear, making them attractive targets. And, homicides of sex trade workers are particularly challenging for police to investigate since the initial list of possible suspects is typically enormous.

The Edmonton homicides were no exception. By the fall of 2003, Edmonton RCMP decided it was time to request the help of criminal profilers to narrow the list of possibilities and help bring focus to a complex investigation.

The Project KARE Task Force (KARE with a K because it falls within the RCMP's K Division) was assembled specifically to hunt down the killer, or killers, responsible for those five murders. But following an exhaustive search through the national Violent Crimes Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS), the task force broadened its investigation to include several other Edmonton-area murders that it believes may be connected.

The Alberta RCMP-led task force is ground breaking for a couple of reasons, the first being the high level of co-operation that took place early on between the Edmonton Police and RCMP. Had there been no information sharing between jurisdictions at the outset, linking these cases would have been unlikely until many more victims had turned up. This integrated task force also includes members of other Alberta police forces.

The second aspect that stands out is the team's comprehensive use of police behavioural science units from across Canada. Project KARE tapped into the expertise of 10 profilers from the RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police and the Sûreté du Québec (Quebec's provincial police), all of whom have experience in major crime investigations and extensive training in criminal investigative analysis and other specialities.

"It's been kind of a turning point for our program," says Supt Glenn Woods, head of the RCMP's Behavioural Sciences Branch (BSB) in Ottawa. "Historically, profilers have been called in only when all other avenues of the investigation have been exhausted. It has evolved to the point now that we've become an area of expertise that most of the major crime units both inside and outside the force have come to rely on."

The RCMP's behavioural science services are available to police agencies across Canada and abroad. Woods says the challenge has been to educate police that this expertise resides right here in Canada.

> **"My experience is that the people who have used our services in the past understand what our limitations are and don't have unrealistic expectations. They understand the value we can bring."**
>
> *— Sgt Pierre Nezan*

"Once in a while, someone from the FBI will call me and say 'Glenn, one of your detachments called us to see if we could do some work for them. They didn't realize you guys did it,'" says Woods. "We are a large organization and people who haven't been exposed to this sometimes make calls outside of the country a little too quickly. Fortunately, I think that's changing. I haven't gotten any calls from the FBI lately."

Project KARE

RCMP S/Sgt Larry Wilson is in charge of behavioural and tactical analysis for Project KARE and he knew exactly where to call when he took on that role. Wilson agrees that the task force is a flagship case for its use of behavioural sciences.

"In terms of BSB's involvement, it has been from the ground up," says Wilson. "They provided advice on the investigative strategy, how we should deal with the media and how the offender may react." These strategies and considerations have been largely based on the criminal and geographic profiles that specialists have developed for the investigation.

RCMP Sgt Pierre Nezan was the lead criminal investigative analyst, or profiler, on Project KARE. Nezan, who is based in Ottawa, says they have had a number of roles to play in the investigation but providing case linkage analysis and a behavioural profile of the offender were by far the most time consuming.

"There were a number of victims in the Edmonton area and we actually went out there and examined the crime scenes and provided an opinion on which ones we believed were perpetrated by the same offender," says Nezan.

Based on an analysis of the crime-scene behaviours and many other documents, the profilers developed what Nezan refers to as a "whodunnit report." This report includes a crime-scene reconstruction and analysis, an explanation of the behaviours that the offender perpetrated against the victim and the motive behind them.

Unlike popular television programs where profilers produce an offender's personality traits in the snap of a finger (or one commercial break), Nezan says in real life, it's painstaking work.

"If you ask me to do a personality profile, I need a lot of material," he says. "It's not something that gets done over the phone or you can say, 'Give me the five-minute story on what happened and I'll tell you who did it.' It's a very involved process."

Criminal profilers must pore over crime-scene photographs and video, autopsy reports and photos, lab reports, the investigation synopsis and media reports, to name a few, before they can develop a legitimate profile. The process can take many days or weeks to complete.

"We'll draw up a personality profile of

the kind of person we believe was likely responsible. It's not an X marks the spot," says Nezan. "It doesn't tell you that John Smith committed the crime, but it helps the investigators prioritize a list of suspects."

While criminal profiling does have its critics, typically those who say it is not purely scientific, Nezan concedes it is not an exact science. But, he says, it still has value.

"It's not infallible," says Nezan. "But my experience is that the people who have used our services in the past understand what our limitations are and don't have unrealistic expectations. They understand the value we can bring."

Project KARE's Larry Wilson is one of those people. Although police in Canada do not see very many cases involving violent serial offenders, Wilson's previous experience includes Project Green Ribbon, a task force that hunted and eventually caught serial sexual killers Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka back in 1992.

At that time, he was in charge of managing the number of suspects—or persons of interest as they are now called—in that investigation. Then, like in Edmonton, the list was extensive.

"Back then, we wanted a means of prioritizing them," says Wilson. "You might have a really 'good' person of interest, but then you ask, 'why is he good or better than another'? We took the elements from the criminal profile that was developed on the offender, extracted those elements, gave them a weight, and then scored each person on our list."

Wilson calls it the Person of Interest Priority Assessment Tool. Information about each person of interest is keyed into a computer, which then rates the suspect and churns out a score of 1, 2 or 3. A suspect scoring a 1 is considered the closest match to the profile of the serial offender in question, while a 3 is the least close. The 1 suspects become the highest priority and are looked at first.

It is thanks in large part to the criminal profile that investigators can sort through and prioritize a long list of suspects. Wilson says it doesn't mean that investigators don't look at the less likely "number 3" suspects; rather, they will start with the most likely and move down the list.

Close to home

Working in concert with the criminal profilers are the geographic profilers who assess the location of the crime sites to determine where the offender might live or operate. This information also helps investigators prioritize potential suspects.

S/Sgt Carl Sesely is one of three geographic profilers at the RCMP and was called in to provide his expertise on the Project KARE Task Force.

"If you don't have a clue as to who is doing the crime and you don't know where to start, geographic profiling will tell you where to start looking," says Sesely.

Aside from studying the location of the crime sites, geographic profilers also want to know how the offender interacted with the victim so they can get a sense of how they selected that victim and what hunting techniques were used. All this information helps them figure out the offender's anchor points—the most significant places in the offender's life, such as where he might live.

"Nothing is random," says Sesely. "It's opportunistic. When it comes to geography, we typically seek out areas that we know. There are reasons why offenders go where they go and it's these consistencies in human nature that make up geographic profiling."

The serial nature of the Edmonton cases was well-suited to geographic profiling since a minimum of five crime sites is needed to produce a mathematically accurate profile using specialized software.

Sesely points out that one murder may have more than one crime site. Geographic profilers can plot any sites where evidence was recovered, such as distinct murder and dump sites.

There are times when elements of a criminal or geographic profile can be released to the public, a strategy that profilers are trained to assess and then recommend (or not recommend) to investigators. But caution is always used.

"There is a phenomenon known as displacement when the offender will change his tactics based on what's been said in the media or the reaction of the police," says Sesely. "The best example of that is the Washington sniper case. One reporter asked the police 'Chief, are our kids safe?' And the chief said 'Yes, send your kids to school.' The next day, a 13-year-old boy was shot by his school. We have to be very careful what we say."

Police have revealed several details about the Edmonton killer: the offender (or offenders) likely drives a truck or sports utility vehicle; participates in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing or farming; is comfortable driving on rural roads; and may have a connection to one of the outlying communities near Edmonton. The public responded with hundreds of tips.

"I think Project KARE has really taught us that BSB can be of value early on and we can help set the direction and prioritization of the suspects," says Supt Glenn Woods. "When people have a good sense of precisely what support we can provide, that's when we get used to advantage. And that has happened with Project KARE." ■

A memory for detail

ViCLAS database can provide missing link

By Katherine Aldred

The Violent Crimes Linkage Analysis System, or ViCLAS, has an impressive memory for detail.

Developed by the RCMP in 1995, this basic computerized system currently stores and compares the details of more than 280,000 violent crimes across the country. When ViCLAS specialists identify similarities or links between old and new cases, this information can provide investigators with critical leads on possible suspects.

What makes the system so valuable, aside from its sheer volume, is its capacity to "remember."

"ViCLAS has a long memory," says Supt Leo O'Brien, officer in charge of Technical Investigation Services at the RCMP. "When the cases go into the database, they are there for 70 years. Investigators may move, they may forget, but ViCLAS never forgets."

> **"When the cases go into the database, they are there for 70 years. Investigators may move, they may forget, but ViCLAS never forgets."**
>
> *— Supt Leo O'Brien*

For police in the United Kingdom who also use the system, this memory for detail reaped significant results in 1999 when an offence in Grampian, Scotland was linked to the 1968 unsolved murder of a 14-year-old school boy in Surrey, England. The link was later confirmed when the suspect's DNA matched DNA evidence retrieved from the original satchel the boy was carrying to school. To its credit, the Surrey Constabulary had kept the satchel in the freezer for more than 30 years.

"The ViCLAS analyst spotted the links and it turned out this person was responsible for the [1968] murder," says Sean Sutton, head of the Department of Serious Crime Analysis at the National Centre for Policing Excellence in the U.K. "When we first implemented ViCLAS in 1998, we were hoping to get our first results within three years. But within 18 months we had solved this cold case."

It's all in the detail

The system works by storing the minutiae of violent crimes, including detailed descriptions of the victim, the offender and the offender's verbal, physical and sexual behaviours.

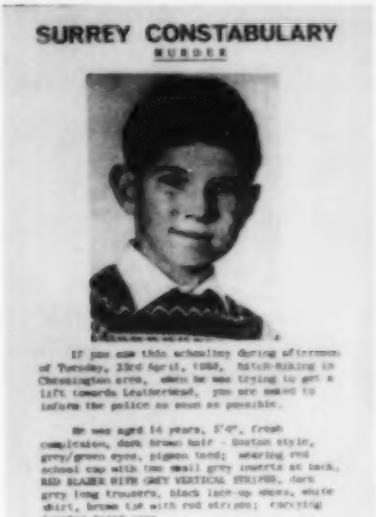
"Violent serial offenders have a pattern," explains O'Brien. "Paul Bernardo, for example, approached all his victims from behind. He picked out young girls. He always carried electrical cord. In their verbal behaviour, many serial offenders say the same things. The details are very, very important."

It is these details that investigators provide by filling in the 156-question ViCLAS booklet, which is then sent to one of nine centres across Canada and input into the database. ViCLAS specialists look for similar serious crimes and send any potential links to investigators, who can then follow up.

Investigators in Canada will soon be able to input their case details into an electronic version of the booklet, which will be sent by e-mail directly to their local ViCLAS centre. The information will be instantly imported into the database.

Well linked

Every province and territory is hooked into the system, which is important. If a serial offender in Newfoundland moves to British Columbia and commits a similar crime, his behaviours can be linked—if they are in the system. Quebec and Ontario have even made submitting information to ViCLAS a legal requirement.



The murder of 14-year-old Roy Tutill in 1968 had stumped U.K. police for more than three decades. But in 1999, shortly after implementing ViCLAS, an analyst linked the historic case to a recent crime and police found Tutill's killer.

While successful in Canada, ViCLAS is considered by many to be the best off-the-shelf crime linkage system available and has a growing international following. The U.K., Sweden, Ireland, Germany and Belgium have all signed licensing agreements with the RCMP to use ViCLAS. Switzerland, France, Austria and the states of New Jersey and Nebraska also use the system.

While some of these countries pay $50,000 a year to use ViCLAS, Sutton points out that the system can actually save police agencies a lot of money.

For instance, ViCLAS was credited for helping police solve the U.K.'s "trophy rapist" case, in which seven victims—one a 10-year-old child—were attacked and raped between 2001 to 2003. "ViCLAS probably saved police £2 million," Sutton says, because the link allowed them to stop the expensive investigation sooner.

Of course, aside from its monetary value, the system can also prevent future victims—an invaluable benefit. ■

Narrowing the search

New Zealand's approach to prioritizing suspects

By Mary Goddard
Behavioural analyst
New Zealand Police

One evening in June 2006, a 36-year-old woman living in a satellite town of Auckland was at home alone when a man knocked on her door. He barged his way in despite her resisting, punched her repeatedly and threatened her with a weapon.

Bleeding and dazed, the victim concluded the only way she was going to survive was by complying with his demands. It soon became obvious to the victim that the offender had been watching her. Once she complied, the offender complimented her and told her he wanted her to be his girlfriend. In conjunction with this, he swore at her and threatened her.

Over the next five hours, the victim was subjected to a wide variety of sexual assaults and repeatedly raped. After each rape, she was forced to take a shower. She was bound and blindfolded, yet the offender also acted concerned about her welfare. Early the next morning, he took her from her home with the intention of using her cash cards to withdraw money. The victim was able to escape, and the offender fled the scene. The Criminal Profiling Unit was called in to help with the case.

To help make the criminal profiles as useful as possible for investigators, our unit focuses on the offender's criminal history and his probable ties to a geographic location. In 1995, we developed the ZWAAGSI database—the (New) Zealand Wide Analysis of Antecedent and Geographic Suspect Indicators. This is a fully searchable record of every charge laid by the New Zealand Police since January 1, 1976. Each record contains a specific charge code, the offender's name, record number, physical characteristics, home address, crime-scene address and Court area where the charge was laid. The database currently holds 4.8 million records.

The 5,600 charge codes are grouped into 12 themes: intruder, violence, sex, property, firearms, drugs, arson, damage, fraud, traffic, antisocial and other. Some charges appear under multiple themes. For example, "disabling or stupefying" is primarily coded as a violence offence. However, it is clearly applicable to some sexual offending and is increasingly seen within the drug-rape scenario. Therefore, ZWAAGSI also catalogues it under sex and drugs.

The system allows a behavioural analyst to search both general themes and individual charge codes. Searches can include descriptive features of an offender (age, height, ethnicity and build) and can specify geographic areas. Importantly, the system allows analysts to search an offender's entire record. While he may have a previous sex charge in one part of the country and only a traffic charge in another area, our search will still pick him up.

In the recent rape case, despite precautions taken by the offender, the victim was able to provide a confident assessment of his ethnicity and age. Given his familiarity with the area, we were sure he was a local resident or someone who had connections to the area. We used this information in conjunction with a 10-year age range to generate a basic list of suspects. Even in this small town (population 25,000), the system turned up 551 possible suspects.

We used specific charge codes and themes to prioritize these individuals. We focused on offenders with previous intruder and sex charges, and with the specific offences of peeping and peering, and domestic assault. We also narrowed the age range.

The guilty offender turned out to be number one on our list. He had lived in the town years previously but had recently returned to stay with relatives. The local police were unaware of his presence.

New Zealand may be a tiny country of only four million people, but we have at our disposal a world-class investigative and analytical tool. Used in conjunction with the ViCLAS database, the Criminal Profiling Unit is able to provide a national service at an international level in the investigation of serious crime. ■

With the help of its national database, New Zealand Police searched for suspects who had a connection to this neighbourhood where a woman was raped last June. The guilty offender turned out to be number one on its suspect list.

Courtesy the New Zealand Police

1. The system was developed by Frank van der Zaag, hence the acronym.

How accurate are geographic profiling systems?

The panellists

Brent Snook, Department of Psychology, Memorial University of Newfoundland
S/Sgt Scot Filer, Operations NCO, Behavioural Science Group, RCMP
Sgt Bill Emerslund, Vancouver Police Department, on secondment to the Integrated Child Exploitation Unit, Surrey, B.C.

Brent Snook

Although geographic profiling (GP) systems have been used in criminal investigations for nearly 16 years, only a few studies have examined the accuracy of those systems. GP system developers typically argue that the performance of their systems must be gauged using a measure referred to as 'hit percentage'—the percentage of an arbitrarily demarcated 'total search area' that needs to be searched before finding the offender's home. The three evaluation studies that have used hit percentage indicate that GP systems reduce the total search area by roughly 90 per cent. Although I would normally qualify this statement with "let's carefully examine the researcher's methods," for this panel discussion, I will simply conclude that GP systems appear to be quite accurate.

In contrast to system developers, policymakers and budget holders might prefer to ask "how accurate are GP systems in comparison to simpler/cheaper GP methods?" Craig Bennell, Paul Taylor and myself have explored this question by comparing GP systems with several simple predictive methods (e.g., calculating mean centre of the crime sites) and human predictions (e.g., choosing the "middle" of the crime sites). We have typically measured accuracy as 'error distance'—the straight-line distance between the predicted home location and the offender's actual home location—so that we could compare various GP methods against one another (not all GP methods produce search areas). Our research has shown that both the simpler/cheaper mathematical methods and human predictions are as accurate as the complex GP systems at predicting the most likely home location—all methods predict that offenders live near the centre of their crime sites. We also found it easy to teach people to improve their predictions and, most surprisingly, this training occasionally allows them to make predictions that outperform GP systems. This is true regardless of how complex the task gets (more crimes, different types of crimes, topographical details available).

> **"Until field studies are conducted, and the results from these studies replicated, I do not think that anyone can give an adequate answer to a question regarding the accuracy of GP systems."**

In response to protests from GP advocates that 'error distance' is not the correct measure of accuracy (although my colleagues and I disagree with such protests), my colleagues and I conducted a study that asked students to produce 'search areas.' We found that students typically produced smaller search areas that contain the offenders' home location than those produced by the GP system (other researchers such as Derek Paulsen have reported similar findings).

So, in terms of relative accuracy, I have to conclude that GP systems are no more accurate than what can be obtained from a person trained to use a simple prediction strategy, regardless of the accuracy measure that is used.

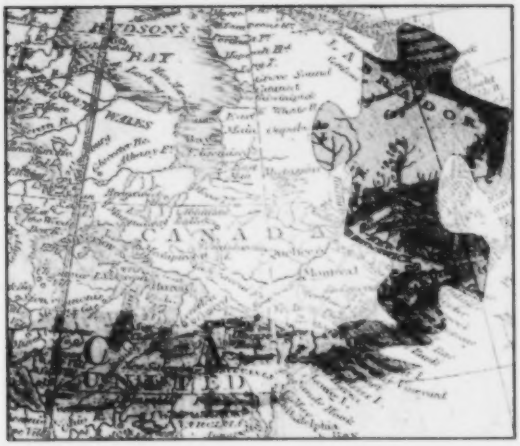
Perhaps an even more important question is "how often do GP systems provide accurate/useful predictions in actual criminal investigations?" Answering this question requires that GP systems be tested under field conditions, and no such studies currently exist.

Until field studies are conducted, and the results from these studies replicated, I do not think that anyone can give an adequate answer to a question regarding the accuracy of GP systems.

S/Sgt Scot Filer

By way of background, geographic profiling is a criminal investigative methodology that analyzes the locations of a connected series of crimes to determine the most probable area of an offender's residence. Therefore, the most important criteria for determining the utility of any geographic profiling system, is how accurately it predicts the offender's anchor point(s).

The primary geographic profiling software applications have been around for at least seven years: Rigel since 1996, and CrimeStat and Dragnet since 1999. Evaluating GP software applications has been done as a means of bringing legitimacy to the process. I believe that these evaluations should involve cases that are appropriate for the technique. I cannot say that this has been done in all the



evaluations. Since I am only certified and experienced in the use of Rigel, I can only offer specifics about this software.

Through the testing that we have done with Rigel, the offender's anchor point can be found, on average, in the top 5 per cent of the area containing the crimes. More simply stated, this means that if the crimes occurred within a 100 square-kilometer area, Rigel can narrow the search for the unknown offender down to the peak 5 square kilometers. The other systems will have different statistic-based answers.

What is equally as important as the accuracy of the software, is the knowledge, skill and experience of the analyst or profiler using the tool. In my experience, one needs to look beyond the software to answer questions related to the applicability and dynamics of the cases. How many cases in the series are applicable for this type of analysis? Should I be using the software for this analysis or is there some other approach I should take? Have all the assumptions necessary for the mathematical algorithm to operate effectively been met?

Some of the software applications are offered for "free," with no training. This could have a significant impact on the decisions made by the user and thus on the accuracy of the results. A user with no experience or training in the geography of crime could figure out how to use the software applications. However, the generation of an accurate analysis (geographic profile) would be purely coincidental.

The skill in geographic profiling is knowing when to use the software and when not to. The information that leads the user to make informed decisions is learned through appropriate training and the accumulation of practical experience. Geographic profiling is an operational support function that has the potential to sway the direction of an investigation. Regardless of the tool used by the analyst or profiler, the expectation is there that you are competent and capable in its use.

> **"What is equally as important as the accuracy of the software, is the knowledge, skill and experience of the analyst or profiler using the tool."**

Sgt Bill Emerslund

In August 2004, a series of robberies began occurring in the densely populated area of downtown Vancouver. A lone male suspect would select small restaurants and stores that typically had only one female staff member on duty. He would usually strike near closing time. The suspect would threaten the staff member with his handgun and demand money. It was apparent that the suspect was also targeting businesses that did not have video or security cameras so police were only provided with vague descriptions from the terrified victims. The suspect was subsequently dubbed the "Sushi Bandit" because he committed his first three identified robberies at small sushi restaurants.

Two members of the Vancouver Police Department's General Investigation Unit were assigned to investigate the cases. They initially linked four robberies that appeared to be the work of one suspect. They identified several more robberies as they occurred that were similar.

As the robberies were taking place in a fairly confined area, the investigators felt they could benefit from the help of a geographic profiler. By this time, about ten robberies had been attributed to the suspect.

Using geographic profiling software, the geographic profiler identified two possible areas in the downtown area that he believed indicated the suspect's anchor points.

The suspect eventually robbed a restaurant that was equipped with a concealed video camera. The investigators finally had an image of the Sushi Bandit.

With this photograph and the Geographic Profiling Map, members of the General Investigation Unit canvassed all apartment buildings within a two block radius of the two locations that were identified. Initially, the investigators were going to bypass an elementary school within one of these areas. However, they decided to go to the school and show the suspect's photograph to school staff. Two staff members at the school identified the suspect as being the father of a student.

When the suspect was arrested, the investigators determined he was actually living at two residences, both within two to three blocks of the anchor points. The investigators produced a very strong case based on the evidence and requested charges on 12 counts of Robbery and Firearms offences, which were accepted by Crown Counsel. The suspect eventually pleaded guilty.

Geographic profiling software and its use by the profiler played a very pivotal role in the successful conclusion of this very complex investigation.■

Ready in one hour?

Time to dispel a few myths about criminal profiling

By Sgt Pierre Nezan
RCMP Behavioural Sciences Branch

"Look for a heavy man, middle-aged, foreign born, Roman Catholic, single, lives with a brother or a sister. When you find him, chances are he'll be wearing a double-breasted suit—buttoned."

In 1957, when the New York City Police Department turned to a psychiatrist for help in narrowing the search for a serial arsonist dubbed "the mad bomber," it is unlikely they expected Dr. James A. Brussel to provide such a detailed description of the yet-unknown offender. The skeptics among the investigators probably softened their stance when George Metesky was arrested wearing a buttoned double-breasted suit. In fact, the only point the good Dr. Brussel got wrong was that Metesky was actually living with two sisters. And so the mystical aura surrounding profiling began.

Without knowing how Brussel arrived at his opinions, one might think he had a mysterious ability, a paranormal gift or perhaps a good crystal ball. The reality is much less sensational.

The mad bomber had been sending a number of angry letters to the media, which Brussel studied for behavioural clues as to the author's ethnicity, age and personal characteristics. His interpretation of the author's personality was based on his experience as a mental health professional and his education and training in human behaviour.

While criminal profiling has been around for many years in Canada and even longer in the United States, its popularity both within and outside the law enforcement community has grown exponentially with the release of successful Hollywood movies such as Silence of the Lambs. Today, numerous books, television shows and big screen movies have increased the public's interest and awareness despite the fact that most are inaccurate depictions of the profiling technique and the criminal profilers.

Criminal profiling, which is actually called criminal investigative analysis, was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) in the 1970s. It is a systematic, logical and analytical method of assessing information gathered from a crime scene. The profiler assesses and interprets the behaviour exhibited by an offender at the scene, and will offer an opinion based on experience, training, education and empirical research on the type of individual who would have committed the crime. The profiler also offers investigative strategies based on the analysis. The offender profile will assist the investigators in focusing their investigation and establishing a priority suspect list. Here are five common myths about criminal profiling, and the real scoop on each.

> **"Popular culture would have you believe that profilers are some type of super sleuths, who solve the type of crime that is beyond the ability of the everyday detective. Profilers do not solve crimes, investigators do."**

Profilers solve crimes

Popular culture would have you believe that profilers are some type of super sleuths, who solve the type of crime that is beyond the ability of the everyday detective. In reality, the last crime I solved was as an investigator in a major crime unit. Profilers do not solve crimes, investigators do. Much like a forensic specialist, police dog handler or undercover cop, criminal profilers support the investigation. A successful conclusion is always the work of investigators—not the profiler—putting it all together.

Profilers have extensive backgrounds in psychology

The reality is that North American profilers trained under the FBI model are all police officers who have extensive experience in the field of major crime investigation. The old adage that there is no substitute for experience is the reason for this.

While a profiler's work can be complemented by the input of a mental health professional, such as Dr. James Brussel, experience dealing with violent offenders in non-clinical settings and visiting and reconstructing crime scenes are elements that most psychologists have not been exposed to, certainly not to the extent of an experienced major crime investigator.

Mental health professionals can make valuable contributions to violent crime investigations, but the good ones will be the first to tell you they are not criminal profilers.

Cases get profiled and solved in an hour

CSI, Criminal Minds and other like-minded television shows propagate the myth that analyzing crime is expeditiously accomplished. While a profiler can offer some preliminary direction and opinion at a crime scene, his or her work

is best accomplished following an in-depth review and analysis of volumes of material.

For instance, some of the material a profiler would require in a homicide case include crime-scene photos, autopsy photos, crime-scene videos, an autopsy report, lab reports, exhibit reports, relevant statements and victimology information. Therefore, complete and in-depth profiles are not offered in 60 minutes (minus the commercials). Rather, depending on the complexity of the case, it can take days or weeks to complete a profile.

Serial offenders want to get caught

We often hear about violent serial sexual offenders who commit such seemingly stupid mistakes that they must have wanted to be caught. In fact, the offender may even tell you so. However, most serial sexual offenders, especially sadists, have long-standing, powerful and obsessive deviant fantasies. At some point in their lives, they decided to criminally act out in pursuit of the fantasy and want to continue with this behaviour.

In my and many other profilers' experience, these types of offenders do not want to get caught. Seemingly stupid mistakes are actually the result of risk-taking behaviours and are best described as need-driven errors.

Offenders who posit that they wanted to get caught are more likely trying to jockey for better position, hoping that their feigned expression of remorse will garner leniency from the court. Remorse, desire for reparation and acceptance of accountability just do not come into it with these types of violent offenders.

Profilers conduct investigations

In some movies and television shows, profilers can do it all. Characterized as the all-encompassing investigator, they are seen interviewing witnesses, interrogating suspects and some even arrest the offender!

In reality, as mentioned above, profilers do not investigate the crime but rather support the detective whose duty is to conduct the investigation. While the profiler will provide strategy and monitor interrogations, he or she will not interview witnesses or arrest the suspect. While cliché, profilers are simply another tool on the investigator's tool belt.

The role of the criminal profiler has become highly sensationalized over recent years, largely the result of myths propagated by the entertainment industry.

Most people's views about profiling fall into one of two positions: their expectations are either unrealistically high—expecting almost mystical insight or instant results—or they may feel it is just crystal ball stuff that has no value to the investigation. In either case, these opinions are usually the result of misinformation or inexperience. The truth is actually somewhere in the middle. But chances are you won't see it on the big screen. ■

More to explore on the behavourial sciences from the Canadian Police College Library

www.cpc.gc.ca/library_e.htm

Books

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Cracking the BTK case

The FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit is ready to help

Supervisory Special Agents
James J. McNamara and
Robert J. Morton
Behavioral Analysis Unit, FBI

You are the homicide commander of a local police department. Your most important cold case has been dormant for several decades. The offender, a serial sexual sadistic killer, has murdered at least eight men, women and children. He terrorized your community for years by writing letters to the media that challenged the police. Years ago, he abruptly stopped communicating. After all the endless speculation about who he is and what happened to him, he re-emerges by sending a letter to the media. To prove his authenticity, he sends photographs and personal effects from one of his earlier victims. The nightmare begins anew for your community and your detectives. Is he ready to begin killing again? What is your investigative plan? How do you implement it and what resources are available to you and your investigative team to catch this elusive killer?

This was the position that Lieut Kenneth Landwehr of the Wichita Police Department in Kansas found himself in on March 17, 2004. The serial killer, who called himself BTK ("bind, torture, kill"), began his series of homicides on January 15, 1974 with the murder of Joseph and Julie Otero and two of their young children, Joseph and Josephine. He continued for 12 years, until four more young adult women were tortured and murdered. These murders were all sexually based homicides, involving a number of sadistic elements.

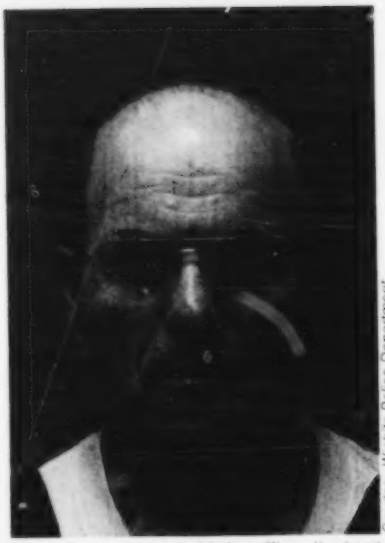
Despite all of the intensive investigative work conducted by the Wichita Police Department and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation during that time, the offender was never identified and the cases were never solved. Several other preceding task forces that attempted to identify the perpetrator, including a cold case homicide task force known as the Ghost Busters, fared no better.

Now, the offender had re-emerged and new victims were a very real possibility. Lieut Landwehr, a veteran homicide detective with the Wichita Police Department and former member of the Ghost Busters, was now in command of the homicide unit. This time, he would be implementing the strategy. Landwehr decided to utilize a resource that is available to any law enforcement agency free of charge and has unparalleled success in helping investigators resolve serial murder cases. He called the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC).

Behavioural analysis

NCAVC was created in 1985 during an expansion of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit (BSU).

The BSU was one of the instructional units of the FBI's Training and Development Division. In 1994, the FBI created the Critical Incident Response Group (CIRG), and the operational behavioural components of the NCAVC were transferred to CIRG, where they now reside.



Courtesy Wichita Police Department

Dennis Rader, a municipal bylaw officer, lived and worked in Park City, Kansas. He was arrested on February 25, 2005, more than 30 years after killing his first victim.

The NCAVC is comprised of four units: three Behavioral Analysis Units (BAUs) and the computer data-based Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) Unit. BAU-1 handles cases involving threat assessments or counterterrorism; BAU-2 handles all cases involving adult victims, including serial murder, murder and serial sexual assaults; and BAU-3 handles crimes involving child victims.

The units have a threefold mission. The primary purpose of each is to provide operational investigative case support. This is done by either working with case investigators on-site, having the investigators travel to the NCAVC in Quantico, Virginia, for a case consultation, or discussing the case with the investigators remotely.

The BAUs offer a broad array of operational services for case investigators: crime-scene analysis, profiles of unknown offenders, investigative recommendations, interview strategies, search warrant affidavit assistance, prosecution strategies, case-linkage analysis and expert-witness testimony.

Second, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and academic insti-

Courtesy Wichita Police Department

This driver's licence was one of several souvenirs that Rader kept of his victims.

COMMICATION

Can I communicate with Floppy and not be traced to a computer. Be honest. Under Miscellaneous Section, 494, (Rex, it will be OK), run it for a few days in case I'm out of town-etc. I will try a floppy for a test run some time in the near future-February or March.

Courtesy Wichita Police Department

Police confiscated this incriminating message written by Rader.

tutions, the units also conduct research into a number of violent crime areas. This includes statistically-based research and interviews of convicted violent offenders. The research includes many factors, such as offender characteristics, victim characteristics and the interaction between victims and offenders. They apply the insight gained from this research to the practical operational investigative support they provide to investigators.

The third mission of the BAUs is to share the knowledge gained through operational experience and research with law enforcement agencies through a variety of training venues.

The BTK Task Force

Landwehr contacted NCAVC about the BTK case in March 2004, and BAU-2 immediately assigned two agents to the case. They reviewed all the available case information and travelled to Wichita on several occasions. During the first deployment, the agents conducted a case consultation and strategy session with the BTK Task Force, which comprised the Wichita Police Department, Kansas State Bureau of Investigation and the FBI. It was during this session that BAU-2 agents and the investigative team devised the strategy that resulted in the capture of BTK.

Examining the evidence

The offender had previously communicated with the police through the media by sending five letters over 14 years, the last in 1988. BAU-2 carefully evaluated every communication sent by the offender (each with his distinct "BTK" signature). As a part of the investigative strategy, the agents worked directly with Landwehr and the Wichita Police Department's public information specialist to craft specific responses to BTK's new letters. Landwehr delivered these responses at press conferences. BTK subsequently sent 11 communications in 11 months; the BTK Task Force issued 15 separate media releases.

The agents also provided a behavioural analysis of the unknown offender, which incorporated new information specific to the case as well as an abundance of evolving information about serial sexual killers. This assessment replaced one that had been originally completed in 1978.

A ViCAP analyst worked closely with the agents when evaluating the Task Force database information. The agents provided specific investigative recommendations along with threat assessments relating to the overt threats about "future victims" that BTK made in his letters. The unit also provided specific search warrant affidavit suggestions which could be used once they identified and apprehended BTK. Finally, the agents consulted with Task Force members almost daily to evaluate new investigative issues as they emerged.

Interview strategy

One important issue that BAU agents raised was the need to develop an interview strategy for the offender in the event he was captured. The agents discussed interview strategy with Landwehr. All agreed that Landwehr and the lead BAU-2 agent would conduct the interview of BTK while the second agent monitored the audio and video outside the room and acted as a coach. Specifics of the interview, such as themes and type of attire worn by the interviewers, were decided well in advance to provide a smooth transition once the arrest was made.

In February 2005, the BTK Task Force positively identified Dennis Rader as BTK. Rader, a 60-year-old municipal bylaw officer, lived and worked in Park City, Kansas, adjacent to Wichita. His identification was based on two things: a computer disk that he had sent to police, and a subsequent DNA analysis.

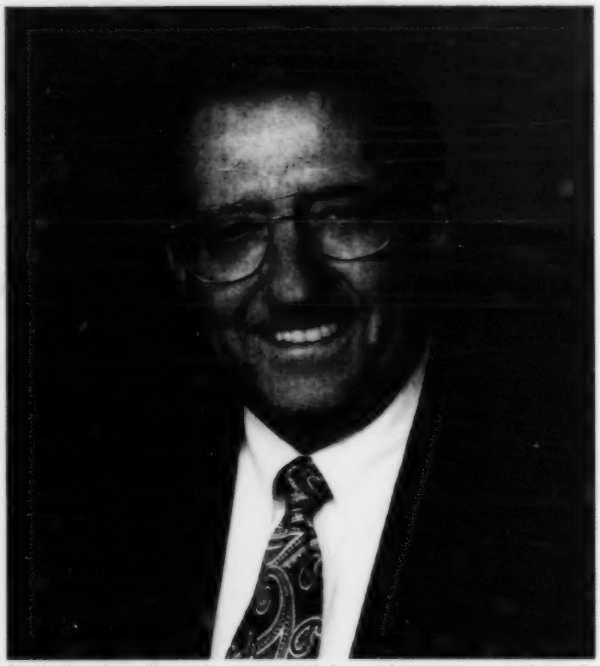
Police arrested Rader without incident on February 25, 2005, and conducted the interview on the same day. Using the previously devised strategy, Rader gave a full confession in only three hours and fifteen minutes. He subsequently co-operated with homicide detectives by providing 30 hours of detailed information from Feb. 25–26.

The execution of search warrants on Rader's residence and workplace provided a wealth of evidence implicating him in all eight murders plus another two that Rader had committed in the nearby county but which had not officially been linked to him. These were the sexual murders of Marine Hedge and Dolores Davis. Many of the items that the agents recommended be added to the search warrants were recovered by the task force.

This was a textbook example of how the NCAVC can successfully apply its operational and research experience in conjunction with local and state investigators and bring about the resolution of a very high-profile case that haunted a community for 30 years. As a result of the support and collaboration, police were able to identify and apprehend an elusive and dangerous serial sexual killer who was convicted of 10 serial sexual murders. ■

A killer job

Twenty years as an FBI profiler



Roy Hazelwood says life experience, open mindedness and common sense are three traits of a good criminal profiler.

Former FBI Agent Roy Hazelwood was among the original criminal profilers at the agency's Behavioral Science Unit (BSU). For almost 20 years, Hazelwood worked on some of the most challenging and high-profile violent crimes around the world and became best known for his speciality in aberrant sexual crimes. The Gazette's *Katherine Aldred interviewed Hazelwood about his work in the BSU and what it takes to be a "profiler."*

When did you first begin working in the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit and what was your job?

I was assigned to the BSU in January 1978. I was placed in charge of all FBI training on sexual crimes. I not only conducted training at and away from the FBI Academy, but I was also in charge of training field agents throughout the FBI. Those agents then conducted training in the field for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

How did you come to specialize in sexual offender cases?

Prior to the FBI, I had served 11 years in the U.S. Army Military Police and I was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Command School for my last three years in the Army. While there, I was the primary instructor in homicide and sexual crimes investigation.

This experience played a large role in my being assigned to the BSU and while in the BSU, I conducted a great deal of research in sexual violence and the rest is history.

What case stands out as the most difficult?

The most difficult case in which I prepared a profile involved the rape and murder of an FBI secretary [Donna Lynn Vetter]. Another BSU member, Jim Wright, and I were ordered by John Otto, the number two man in the FBI, to fly to San Antonio the morning after the victim was discovered. We were given until the next day to prepare a profile for the two homicide detectives and 75 FBI agents assigned to the case.

The crime scene had not been processed, there were no crime-scene photographs, no toxicology report, and the autopsy had not been conducted. Jim and I walked through the crime scene, went to the morgue to observe the body, and interviewed the parents and co-workers of the victim to obtain necessary information about her.

We worked all night and provided our profile the next day to 77 very dubious investigators – dubious because they wanted to know, "Who were these guys from Quantico?" We were under a great deal of stress. The killer was arrested within two weeks and he matched the profile almost 100 per cent.

In today's society, the criminal is learning by leaps and bounds.

What about the most disturbing case?

It is very difficult to select a case as being the most disturbing. I believe that one of the most emotionally difficult cases I ever worked on involved the serial murder of nine children in Switzerland. Roger Depue, the Unit Chief of the BSU at the time, and I flew to Switzerland to work on the case. We met with detectives from nine jurisdictions and we also met with parents of the murdered children. This case was particularly difficult because such crimes were unheard of in Switzerland and consequently it affected the parents especially hard and it even severely impacted the investigators. Everyone we dealt with was so naive about such violence. This was very difficult because Roger and I had to be very careful of what we said and how we said it.

Were you ever "way off" on a profile?

I can recall a case in which I was almost totally wrong. The case involved a mother who answered her door carrying her infant child. When she opened the door, she and the infant were shot. No other

crime (robbery or rape) was associated with the shooting. The man then walked away from the home, entered his car and drove away. This was in the mid-morning.

I felt that the victims were shot by someone who was personally angry with the mother or other family members and was therefore known to the family. I was certain that he had an arrest history. The man was caught a year later and turned out to be a total stranger with no arrest or mental-health history. He had suffered a psychotic break prior to the shooting, returning to his normal lifestyle shortly after the shooting.

If given the same facts today, I would profile him exactly as I did before.

While at the BSU, you distinguished between "organized" and "disorganized" killers. What is the difference?

John Douglas and I coined the terms "organized" and "disorganized" in 1980 in an *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* article titled "The Lust Murderer." This article was reproduced in the RCMP *Gazette* in 1980.

We used the terms because they mean what everyone thinks they mean. Organized refers to crimes that are methodical, planned, leave no evidence, and where the offender uses a weapon of choice, not opportunity. Disorganized means crimes that are impulsive and chaotic, and where the offender leaves evidence and uses a weapon of opportunity.

How did profiling change during your time at the BSU?

First of all, the title changed. We initially used "psychological profiling" as the term for what we did. We then changed it to "criminal personality profiling" and finally called it "criminal investigative analysis."

The program evolved from simply preparing profiles for unsolved crimes—the characteristics and traits of unidentified offenders. By the time I left the BSU in 1994, profiling was a relatively small part of how we assisted in the BSU. We began testifying, providing proactive strategies, suggesting interrogation and interview strategies, and assisting in search warrant affidavits, threat assessment and equivocal-death analysis.

If every field of criminal investigation does not advance, it will quickly fall behind.

What kinds of information help you prepare a profile?

In homicide cases, the analyst needs victimology, a crime-scene report and photographs, a commercial map depicting all crime scenes and distances between them, an autopsy and toxicology report, and demographic and geographic information of each crime scene.

In rape cases, the analyst needs a crime-scene report and photographs, a rape (medical) examination report, a commercial map depicting all crime scenes and distances between, a victim statement that must include the injurious force used, the type and sequence of sexual acts, what the offender said to the victim and/or demanded the victim say to him, and other pertinent information.

What traits do you want in a profiler?

John Douglas, Bob Ressler and I used to interview each applicant for the "profiling" position within the BSU. We looked for the following traits in those applicants: life experience, open mindedness, common sense (defined as practical intelligence), intuition, the ability to isolate personal feelings about the crime, the criminal and the victim, and analytical logic (systematic reasoning).

Will there be more advances in this field?

I would certainly hope so. In today's society, the criminal is learning by leaps and bounds. He has the Internet, the print media and the movies (such as Murder By Numbers) and TV shows (such as CSI), which provide him with educational opportunities not previously possible. If every field of criminal investigation does not advance, it will quickly fall behind.

I would envision analysts (profilers) and medical and forensic experts sitting in their offices with immediate desktop access to ViCLAS/VICAP and geographic profiling technology, and having the crime scene and autopsy presented to them three dimensionally and in real-time on a large screen. We are probably pretty close to realizing this at the present time. ■

What the little eye spied

The dos and don'ts of interviewing children

By Joanna Pozzulo, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Carleton University

"Two children abducted by convicted pedophile"
"Eight-year-old child missing"
"Boy, 12, only witness to fatal shooting"
"Young girl found wandering the streets alone"

Behind these headlines, a child waits to be interviewed by a police officer who is responsible for determining what happened. It is not an easy task when you consider the challenges that a child victim or eyewitness may pose to the officer: a limited vocabulary, a desire to please the officer or difficulty answering because of trauma. Some children will already have been interviewed several times by a parent or caregiver.

Over the past two decades, research has shown that children are capable of reporting forensically relevant details of the crime they experienced or witnessed and identifying those responsible. Moreover, children are capable of recalling much that is accurate. The challenge for police and those in the justice system is to determine when children are recalling accurately and when they are making false claims. The good news is that the research also shows the accuracy of children's reports is highly dependent on how they are interviewed.

Interviewing children

When children are asked to report all they can remember using an open-ended approach with such questions as "Tell me what happened" or "Tell me what you saw," their accuracy is comparable to adults. Unfortunately, the initial report that children provide in response to such open-ended questions may elicit little information. Probes such as "What else do you remember?" or "Tell me more about what you saw" may be necessary to arrive at the required information.

When critical details are left out in children's reports, there is a tendency to ask direct questions to facilitate the evidence collection. The dilemma arises when we consider the accuracy of direct questioning. Children who are asked leading or suggestive questions such as "The old man had a beard, didn't he?" or "Did you see the knife" are more likely to produce an inaccurate report than when neutral questions are used such as "Did the man have a beard?" or "Did you see a knife?"

A number of other techniques have been found to increase inaccurate reports:

- telling the child that others have made similar reports
- promising the child a gift, prize or token for providing certain responses
- threatening a negative consequence if the child does not provide a particular response
- repetitious questioning
- inviting the child to speculate
- asking yes/no questions (with preschoolers)

The content and format of questions posed to child witnesses should be considered carefully. Interviewers need to balance the risk when asking direct questions that could yield false information. The interviewer should rely on the child's free recall as much as possible to obtain accurate information.

Start with the right question

Dr. John Yuille at the University of British Columbia and his colleagues there developed an interview protocol known as the Step-Wise Interview to keep false claims to a minimum. This protocol consists of a series of steps in which the interviewer begins with the least leading and directive type of questioning, then proceeds to more specific forms of questioning as necessary.

The objective is to give the child plenty of opportunity to respond to open-ended questions before other types of questioning are used.

The goal of Step 1 is for the interviewer to build rapport with the child by asking about neutral topics. Rapport-building is meant to make the child feel comfortable with the interviewer before the critical event is probed.

In Step 2, the child is asked to recall two events that do not pertain to the alleged abuse or incident. These responses provide the interviewer with knowledge about the child's language and vocabulary.

The concept of truth and having the child agree to tell the truth occurs in Step 3. The remaining steps introduce the alleged incident and—using an

open-ended approach—the interviewer asks the child to describe what happened. As the interview progresses, more specific, non-leading questions can be asked. Follow-up questions are based on the information the child provided during the earlier steps.

Anatomically detailed dolls

Some argue that if children have difficulty providing a verbal account, props such as anatomically detailed dolls may be useful. Just as the name implies, anatomically detailed dolls are consistent with the male or female anatomy. The assumption underlying their use is that children may have difficulty verbalizing what occurred and, in their play with the dolls, they will demonstrate the events they experienced or witnessed. This assumption intuitively makes sense. However, the research does not support the use of anatomically correct dolls in making a determination of whether sexual abuse occurred.

Researchers have identified a number of difficulties with the use of anatomically detailed dolls in diagnosing sexual abuse. For example, no specifications or guidelines are provided to the manufacturers of these dolls. Consequently, there is wide variation; some mental health professionals even make their own dolls. Not only is there no standard for what the dolls should look like, there are no standard procedures for scoring the children's behaviours when interacting with the dolls. There is no research that compares how non-abused and abused children play with the dolls.

Describing the perpetrator

Not only are children asked to report the events they witnessed, they are often asked to describe the perpetrator, especially if he or she is a stranger. Perpetrator descriptions have been examined in only few studies relative to the number of studies that have examined recall for the event. Children and adults often report hair descriptors with accuracy. However, children (and adults) can have difficulty reporting height, weight and age estimates. Rather than probe for specific numbers to describe these estimates, interviewers can ask children to make relative judgements compared to people they know. For example, have the child state whether the perpetrator was shorter than daddy or old like grandpa.

One task a child victim or eyewitness may be called upon to perform is an identification of the perpetrator from a lineup. In a review of studies that compared child and adult identification accuracy, children five and over had correct-identification rates that were comparable to those of adults, provided the perpetrator was present in the lineup. However, when the perpetrator was not in the lineup, children as old as 14 produced higher false-positive rates than adults. That is, children were more likely to select an innocent person from a lineup than adults. As with interviewing, the identification procedure can influence the accuracy rate.

Simultaneous and sequential lineups

Police departments across Canada and the United States currently use both simultaneous and sequential lineup procedures. The simultaneous procedure asks the witness to view all the lineup members at the same time. In contrast, the sequential lineup has the witnesses view each lineup member one at a time. The witness is asked to make an identification decision with each lineup member presented before looking at the next.

Some argue that the sequential lineup procedure is more effective at reducing the rate of error when the suspect is innocent. However, research shows that the sequential lineup is not very effective for child witnesses. In fact, across the studies available, the simultaneous procedure appears to produce more reliable identification evidence from child witnesses compared to the sequential procedure. Keep in mind, however, that the simultaneous procedure results in a higher false-positive rate with children compared to adults.

Elimination lineup

In the late 1990s, I developed an alternative lineup procedure for child witnesses known as the elimination lineup. With the elimination lineup procedure, the child is asked to make two judgements. First, all lineup members are shown to the child (as in the simultaneous lineup) and the child is asked to pick out the person who looks most like the perpetrator. When this decision is made, all other lineup members are removed (or "eliminated") and the child is asked whether the lineup member selected is in fact the perpetrator.

Studies to date find that the elimination lineup procedure reduces the false-positive rates for children aged 4–13 compared to the simultaneous procedure. Moreover, the correct-identification rate for this age group is comparable across the elimination and simultaneous procedures. Although these data are encouraging, greater research is needed before the elimination procedure is used with children. ■

Multi-disciplinary threat assessment

The missing link in preventing student violence

In 2002, Kevin Cameron and Supt Glenn Woods of the RCMP's Behavioural Sciences Branch (BSB) developed and piloted the first multi-disciplinary threat assessment training program in Canada. Since that time, Cameron and BSB profilers have continued to train thousands of professionals across the country. In this article, Cameron describes how this collaborative response can provide the missing link in preventing serious violence in schools.

By J. Kevin Cameron
Executive Director
Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response

A lesson learned from the majority of school shootings by youth is that there were often pre-incident signs and indicators, many as obvious as the student telling people beforehand that they were going to commit the crime. Therefore, one dimension of threat assessment is to determine if a threat-maker actually poses a risk to the target or targets they have threatened.

In Canada, multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams consist of formal operations between police, school administrators and counsellors. Although the protocol used to guide decision-making by the teams was first developed in response to the school shootings in Taber, Alberta, and Littleton, Colorado, the practice of threat assessment is now applied to all forms of youth violence.

Members of the teams work from the perspective that serious violence is an evolutionary process and therefore no one "just snaps." Second, pre-incident data is often available that can help police and others intervene and prevent serious violence.

However, not everyone moves along the same evolutionary pathway. Some individuals have clear escalating patterns of violent offending so that when they kill someone, those who know the perpetrator are not surprised. Others can shock the entire community by seemingly going from being a model citizen to killing their spouses, co-workers or classmates. In the latter example, it may be that those who are close to the perpetrator were simply not aware of his or her double life. In other cases, the surprise is warranted as the homicide may be the perpetrator's first act of violence.

So what's the difference? Some perpetrators evolve behaviourally, increasing the frequency and intensity of their violent acts over the years. Others evolve cognitively and emotionally such that the frequency and intensity of their thoughts and feelings or fantasies about violence evolve over time until they commit their first violent act. Whatever the pathway, most people show signs that threat-assessment teams are trained to look for.

In the school context, if a student utters a clear and plausible threat to kill, school principals are trained to automatically check lockers for any indication of planning for violence. The police members of the threat-assessment teams are trained to show an interest in the contents of the threat-maker's bedroom because in most cases of high-profile school shootings, the evidence (guns, ammunition, knives, bombs, planning journals) has been found in a student's school locker or bedroom. Also, many students write stories, draw pictures or make vague statements about their thoughts and intentions of committing serious violence.

Shootings like the one that occurred at this high school in Taber, Alberta, can be prevented if the signs of student violence are identified early on by police and school administrators.

Ann Hui

Threat-assessment teams are trained to distinguish between typical baseline behaviour and data that suggest an evolution or escalation in violence. By engaging in the threat assessment data-gathering process, the team is able to collect enough information (often within one to two hours) to find out if an immediate risk of violence exists and to support mental-health orders if necessary.

In several recent cases in Canada, the teams have collected enough data to intervene in a variety of near misses. In these cases, they have had high-risk children and youths committed for psychiatric evaluations that would not likely have occurred if police or other members of the team had pursued the orders on their own.

In the past, if a student was found to have a weapon at school or utter a threat to kill, the school would typically treat it as a disciplinary matter or the police would be called, and the student charged.

The problem with this approach is that cases that should have had a threat-assessment component to them were not resolved by the disciplinary act of suspending the student from school or laying charges. Multi-disciplinary threat assessment, with its emphasis on data collection, is referred to as the missing link in violence prevention. This is because within minutes to hours of their suspension from school or charges being laid against them, some students have returned to their schools and opened fire.

Collecting evidence to justify a charge and secure a conviction is not the same as determining if someone actually poses a risk to the target they have threatened. In multi-disciplinary threat assessment, our jingle is "You can charge all you want and you can suspend all you want, but don't you want to know whether the threat-maker actually poses a risk?" ■

J. Kevin Cameron, M.Sc., R.S.W., B.C.E.T.S., B.C.S.C.R, is a board-certified expert in traumatic stress and a diplomate of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress.

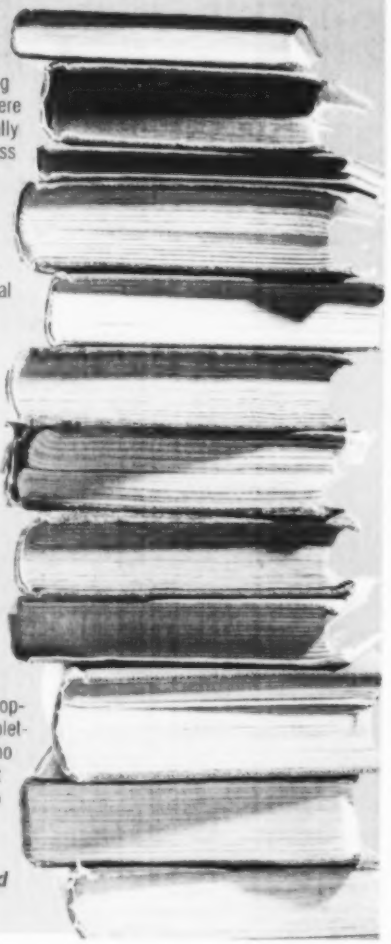
Program trains officers in threat assessment

The RCMP is offering a new understudy program to train police officers in all aspects of threat assessment. The program was created in 2006 to deliver specialized academic and field training to those who work on dedicated threat assessment units.

"This is a growing field in Canada and the U.S.," says A/Sgt Pat Powell, in charge of the RCMP's threat evaluation and management unit in British Columbia. "We wanted to bring this area into a more professional realm by providing consistent training."

Threat assessment usually involves reacting to a specific threat made against a police officer, justice official, member of the public, school or place of business. Although the RCMP's criminal profilers are trained to provide threat assessment—and do so when asked—demand for the service is growing beyond their capacity.

"British Columbia's unit is growing in leaps and bounds because they are taking on threats against justice officials—the Crown and jurors," says Supt Glenn Woods, head of the RCMP's Behavioural Sciences Branch. "We're seeing more and more of that because of organized crime."



The one- to two-year program is currently being offered in British Columbia and Alberta, where demand is the highest, but the goal is to eventually provide the training to police officers across Canada.

To qualify for the understudy program, candidates must have a strong investigational background in crimes of violence, such as sexual assaults and homicides.

Those accepted into the training begin with readings and academic exercises on such topics as domestic violence, school and workplace violence, criminal harassment, extremism and personality disorders. They also receive training from the creators of commonly used threat-assessment tools. The understudies then apply that knowledge in the field by completing a minimum of 30 threat evaluations under the direction of a certified threat-evaluation specialist. Once certified as specialists themselves, they can mentor future understudies.

"The training in the understudy program is top-notch," says Cpl Carrie Vanderkracht, who is completing the program. "It's very intensive. Anyone who comes through the program will feel confident they have acquired the skills and experience to address all areas of threat assessment."

—Katherine Aldred

Reports gathering dust?

How the U.K. police make the most of offender profiles

The U.K.'s Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS) is the U.K.'s national violent crime linkage analysis unit. SCAS falls under the National Centre for Policing Excellence (NCPE) (Operations), whose main aim is to enhance the capability of the police service in all aspects of operational policing. In this article, Sean Sutton, Head of Section, explores the SCAS's work with behavioural investigative advisors (BIAs), and how police investigators are benefiting.

By Sean Sutton
Serious Crime Analysis Section
National Centre for Policing Excellence, U.K.

SCAS and the rest of NCPE Operations have been involved in providing behavioural science advice to help investigators catch criminals faster for nearly 10 years now. However, is this advice always used to full potential?

The last thing anyone wants is to spend time and energy writing a report that will sit in a drawer because the investigator doesn't know how to turn the advice into action, or worse, does not understand the advice in the first place.

On the whole, there is a receptive and eager audience for SCAS's services. Profilers in the U.K. are subject to national accreditation through a senior police board made up of both senior academics and police officers. This means that a profiler's report should be easy to understand because this is exactly the purpose of the accreditation. If a profiler could not produce sound, practical and easy-to-understand reports, they would not receive accreditation. While it might be interesting to know that the perpetrator of a particular homicide wet the bed as a child, if the police do not have a database of bedwetters, how can that information help investigators catch their suspect? The answer, of course, is that it can't.

However, when the SCAS surveyed investigators on the usefulness of its reports in 2003, a number of problems came to light.

The service discovered that investigators struggle with interpreting and using the advice and putting it into actual lines of enquiry or physical lists of suspects.

To illustrate the point, if you took your car to a mechanic and—instead of fixing it—the mechanic gave you a detailed report of what was wrong with it and the parts you needed, would you be able to fix it yourself? Likely not.

To continue the analogy, we would benefit from having the right tools and the maintenance manual for the correct model of car. This latter point is very important because on occasion the section has provided advice to an investigator on a particular type of murder, which has in turn been applied to a completely different kind of case.

Each case is different and unless the cases form part of a series, each report will be totally different. In fact, there is a surefire way to spot a bad report: one that provides the same advice as the last one.

Today, the SCAS is no longer merely delivering its reports or behavioural advice to the investigators. It is now often showing them how to carry out these lines of enquiry.

Sometimes, the behavioural investigative advisors (BIAs) will use the databases they have available to them and conduct a search for suspects themselves. On some occasions, they will do this in consultation with the police force's Information Technology experts. This has proven very useful as police systems are not always geared towards these types of searches. This post-advice assistance tends to be carried out by specialist Violent Crimes Linkage Analysis Systme (ViCLAS) senior analysts who use the BIA and geographic profilers' reports to guide them.

Generating useful lists

Once the behavioural and geographic experts have established the kind of offender they are seeking—age, previous criminal history and likely location of residence—they can start to search the U.K.'s national police database to identify any individuals who fit that type. A senior analyst and a BIA will work together to make the most appropriate searches against the Police National Computer (PNC), the database that holds information on all offenders that have been convicted of offences in the U.K.

These searches will typically yield thousands of potential suspects but further work needs to be done before the information will be useful for the investigator. If there is a full DNA profile from the crime scene, advisors can remove any suspect

from their list that has DNA on record (as these would have already been checked). Individuals can also be scored or weighted using a prioritization matrix drawn up by the profilers so that investigators can focus first on those at the top of the list.

SCAS is currently developing a way to generate many different lists that may contain potential suspects for a specific case and to cross-reference these lists to find individuals who appear on more than one. It is important that a variety of sources be used when generating these lists as pertinent information may not necessarily be contained on a police database.

Lists can be developed based on personal descriptors, such as anyone identified by dental records as having a gold tooth. They can include personal characteristics, such as individuals with particular previous convictions. Lists can also be compiled based on habitual characteristics, such as people who are identified by libraries as having taken out books covering particular topics.

SCAS and NCPE work in close conjunction with the investigators to generate these lists and a SCAS analyst then performs a comparison of the names. A final list of individuals is then prioritized and given to the investigator for further examination.

The SCAS is no longer merely delivering its reports or behavioural advice to the investigators. It is now often showing them how to carry out these lines of enquiry.

Recent case

While these services are relatively new, they have resulted in a number of successes for investigations in the U.K. where the offender was identified from a priority list.

One such case involved John Hall, a senior prison officer, who was convicted of a string of sexual offences, including approaching young girls in the street and pretending to be a police officer to get them into his car. The enquiry began with a crime analyst who found links between an abduction on Dec. 31, 2004 and an earlier offence in August 2003.

SCAS then joined part of an NCPE Operations Team, which provided ongoing support to the investigation as it grew in size and complexity. At that time, NCPE Operations was testing a new product—Nominal Pool Generation which involves gathering a variety of lists of potential suspects and identifying whether any individuals appear on more than one. The greater number of lists that an individual is on, the more interesting this person becomes to the investigation.

Following a public appeal, Hall's name was phoned in by a member of the public. The investigators asked SCAS to find out how many of the existing lists he was on. Hall was found on four lists, and this was enough to prioritize him as the main suspect.

After his arrest, SCAS also provided the prosecution with similar evidence showing that the offences in the series were so similar, that of the more than 8,500 sampled on the ViCLAS database, only six offences showed this very particular behaviour. The strength of the prosecution's evidence was too much for Hall and he pleaded guilty to all offences charged.

Conclusion

The point of this work is to provide investigators with practical lists of individuals who they can start to investigate as potential suspects. SCAS analysts are taking the results of profiles generated by BIAs and using police intelligence and information databases to assist them in analyzing that information. They can then work with the BIA to identify priority suspects that best fit the profiles produced.

SCAS doesn't actually investigate crime and has always been very wary about over-stepping the line between operational support and investigation. However, this next step of support has been welcomed by many investigators. Officers are now hearing about these successes and asking for additional support themselves. ■

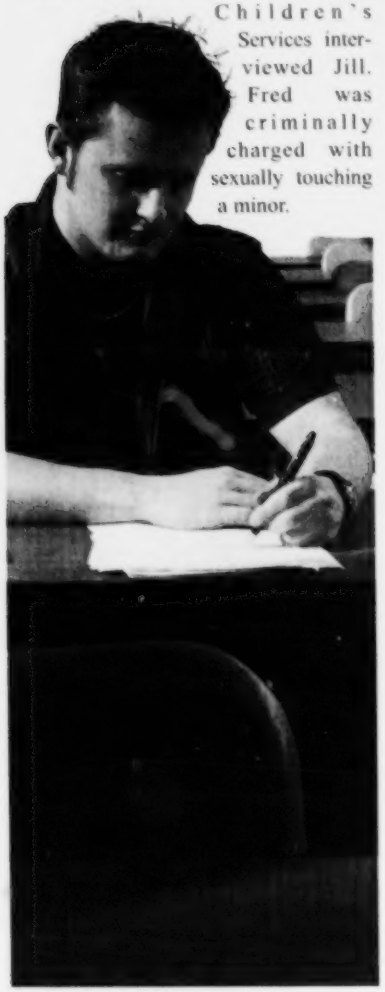
Getting to the truth

Questionnaire proves useful

By James W. Bassett

Fred was a retired factory worker. One day he went to visit his son, daughter-in-law and three-year-old granddaughter named Jill. Fred took Jill for a walk. They walked to a nearby primary school and then returned home. After Fred departed, Jill told her parents "Grandpa pulled me behind a tree. He touched my pee pee."

Jill's parents contacted police and Children's Services interviewed Jill. Fred was criminally charged with sexually touching a minor.



Fred's lawyer found a psychologist to interview Fred. The psychologist was an expert in diagnosing pedophilia (a person who desires children sexually). After three days of testing, the psychologist concluded that Fred was not a pedophile and therefore could not have sexually touched Jill.

The lawyer also sent Fred to take a private polygraph examination. Before the polygraph was conducted, the examiner asked Fred to complete a written interview called the Crime Questionnaire™. Fred explained that he could not read so the polygraphist read the questions aloud and wrote down Fred's answers.

Soon the polygraphist came to this question: "Suppose your best friend told you that she heard there was a videotape from a hidden camera showing you in the act of committing this crime. What would you do?" The polygraphist decided to personalize this question to the facts of Fred's case. The following exchange resulted:

"Fred, as you probably know, they are putting video cameras all over the place now. They're putting them on city streets to catch drug dealers and in stores to catch shoplifters."

Fred made no response.

"They're even putting video cameras near schools."

(Fred began to squirm in his chair, but said nothing.

"They're even putting those cameras in surveillance satellites that orbit the earth. In fact, there's one that flies over your son's neighbourhood every day!"

Fred squirmed in his chair even more.

"The cameras in those satellites have lenses that can read a newspaper over a person's shoulder from outer space. Those satellite cameras can even see what color shoes a little girl is wearing."

Fred pointed his entire body toward the door.

"Now Fred, suppose I told you there was a videotape from a hidden camera showing you in the act of sexually touching your granddaughter? What would you do?"

Fred tried to speak, but the words stuck in his throat. Time passed: five seconds, ten seconds, fifteen seconds. Finally, Fred forced out these words: "Uh, uh, uh, I don't know. I don't know what to say!"

Fred's behaviour gave him away; he had obviously touched his granddaughter sexually. But the polygraphist conducted the polygraph test anyway. Fred's polygraph results concurred with the results of the crime questionnaire: "deception indicated" when Fred denied sexually touching Jill.

In the United States, criminal suspects often refuse police polygraph tests. However, most of these same suspects will agree to complete a crime questionnaire because they do not want to appear completely unco-operative. They also believe their answers will prove nothing.

The hidden camera videotape question is one of 21 questions on the crime questionnaire. Research shows many hypothetical questions are highly effective in differentiating guilty and innocent suspects. Suspects' answers often reveal interrogation approaches that result in confessions. Videotaped interviews of crime questionnaires administered orally can make a perpetrator's guilt readily apparent to judges and juries.

Questionnaire responses occasionally provide new information that helps solve cases that would otherwise remain unsolved.

The crime questionnaire provides a framework that makes interviews and interrogations more productive. It is a unique training tool and a new weapon in the investigator's arsenal for protecting citizens from criminals. ■

James Bassett has been a polygraph examiner in private practice in Cincinnati, Ohio since 1972. He developed the Crime Questionnaire™ and has offered training on its use at numerous police departments including the Nevada State Police and Portland Oregon Police Department.

Demystifying missing persons in Australia

By Leonie Jacques
National Missing Persons
Co-ordination Centre
Australian Federal Police

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) National Missing Persons Co-ordination Centre (NMPCC) aims to co-ordinate and promote a nationally integrated approach for reducing the incidence and impact of missing persons.

The NMPCC provides the direction, co-ordination and facilitation of missing person issues. The centre works in partnership with state and territory police jurisdictions, other relevant Commonwealth and state government agencies, non-government search agencies, families and friends of missing persons, and the broader community.

A new research project into the missing persons phenomenon aims to provide in-depth knowledge and understanding of the missing persons population in Australia by identifying at-risk groups and using preventative strategies to guide future policy development and service delivery.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) National Missing Persons Coordination Centre recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Institute of Criminology to undertake the national research. The project is jointly funded by the AFP and the Attorney General's Department of New South Wales (NSWAGD). It will aim to do the following:

- Update existing data on missing persons from all Australian state and territory sources to identify at-risk groups, with a particular interest in identifying specific characteristics that may or may not define missing persons.
- Identify best practices in preventative measures, early intervention, support services and referral mechanisms.
- Identify opportunities and barriers to establishing a more networked approach to policy and practice in relation to missing persons and their families.
- Identify and establish a solid base for future research and those areas that would benefit from further research.

A steering committee comprised of staff from the AFP, NSWAGD, a representative from a non-government search agency, a family/community member and an academic will guide and monitor the progress of the research, which is due early in 2007.

Missing persons in Australia

Each year in Australia, more than 30,000 people are reported missing to police and non-police search services—that's 1.61 for every 1,000 people in the general population.

People go missing for many reasons: sometimes under suspicious circumstances, and other times following conflicts with family members or as a result of mental-health problems.

Some people choose to be missing. They simply no longer want contact with family and friends. In other cases, people go missing because of circumstances beyond their or their families' control.

About 95 per cent of people reported missing to police are located within a short period of time. In around half of these cases, the missing person returns home or makes contact with family or police. However, there are currently 1,633 people in Australia who have been listed as missing for more than 12 months.

Impact on family

It has been estimated that for every person reported missing, the impact is felt by 12 others, predominantly family members

and friends, but also work colleagues and other community members. Families and friends of missing persons face a range of physical, emotional, psychological and financial impacts.

Families and friends of missing persons often find they can't negotiate the normal grieving process as there is no identified death of their loved one. When a relative is missing there is no resolution—only what families have termed continuous grieving or ambiguous loss.

The Families & Friends of Missing Persons Unit is the only unit in Australia that works with, and on behalf of, families and friends of missing persons. Its mission is to co-ordinate the delivery of support services, such as providing counselling and support, facilitating administrative or legislative reform and producing relevant key publications. ■

For more information on the NMPCC, please visit ***www.afp.gov.au/missing***

This article is reprinted courtesy of *Platypus* magazine.

Just the facts

Defined as the malicious or deliberate damage to property by fire or explosive, arson not only costs millions per year in lost property, it can also cost lives. Here is a brief snapshot of this destructive crime and its impact around the world.

Fifty per cent of all arson fires occur outdoors, 30 per cent in structures, and 20 per cent in vehicles.

Each year, disaster-level bushfires cost Australia an average of $77 million AU. Between 25 and 50 per cent of bushfires attended by fire authorities are the result of deliberate lightings.

In 2003, there was a nine per cent decrease in the number of deliberately set vehicle fires in the U.K. The decrease is the result of numerous policy and legislative changes, and a recent rise in the price of scrap metal.

In 2005, U.S. police agencies reported 67,504 arson offences. Buildings or structures accounted for 43.6 per cent of the total number while mobile property involved 29 per cent. The average value loss per arson was $14,910 US.

In 2005, the number of arson offences in the U.S. actually declined by 2.7 per cent from the previous year.

Half of all arson arrests are juveniles.

According to a 2005 report, about 50 per cent of deliberately set vehicle fires in the U.K. occur in vehicles that are reported stolen. The main motivation for setting fire to stolen vehicles is the destruction of forensic evidence.

The U.K. Home Office reports that police in the U.K. recorded 45,752 arson offences in 2005/06—a five per cent decline from the previous year.

Statistics Canada reports that 13,315 arson incidents were reported to police in 2005 at a rate of 41 per 100,000 population. The rate was unchanged from 2004, but has decreased 8 per cent since 1995.

Canada's arson rate of 45 per 100,000 population in 2000 was 41 per cent higher than the American rate.

Vacant and abandoned buildings are targets for arsonists. Poorer neighbourhoods experience 14 times the number of arson incidents as higher income neighbourhoods.

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that in 2005, intentionally set structure fires resulted in $664 million US in property loss. The estimated dollar loss directly related to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, was $33.4 billion US.

In 2005, 315 civilians died as a result of intentionally set structure fires in the U.S.

Of the 3,109 bias-motivated property crimes in the U.S. in 2005, arson occurred in 39.

SOURCES: *Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Crime in England and Wales 2005/06*: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0506.htm ; *U.S. Fire Administration, Arson Fire Statistics*: usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/arson ; *Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program*: www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/property_crime/arson.htm and www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2005/incidentsoffenses.htm; *Statistics Canada* : www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/060720/d060720b.htm; *Australian Institute of Criminology*: www.aic.gov.au/topics/arson/aic.html .

Youth centres: an excellent recruiting venue

By Sgt Shawn Lemay
RCMP youth strategist

In a time when recruiting is so very important, especially recruiting the right people, youth centres can serve as a great medium to connect with and attract today's youth.

More specifically, police officers' involvement in the operations and program delivery of these centres appears to be making a difference. Police officers are becoming more involved in the lives and social development of today's youth. In many cases, they are making the local youth centres their preferred stop when reaching out to youth, building relationships and opening the lines of communication between young people and police agencies.

Youth centres have long been an excellent place for youths to congregate, grow and develop their social skills. They learn trades, professional skills and attributes that help them cope and become productive members of the community. These include gaining the confidence and the know-how to enter today's job market. In some cases, that quest for the job market leads young people on a direct path to the front counter of police agency's recruiting unit.

At the very least, a youth centre is a safe place for kids to go, keeping them off the streets and active in a setting that fosters social gatherings, sporting events and other activities. It is only fitting then that police officers invest their time in supporting and participating in the service delivery of such a place. When police officers frequent youth centres, either by sitting on the board, being volunteers or guest speakers, or just dropping in when time permits on shift, they are making significant strides in connecting with the young people in their community.

Police are also building relationships with other agencies and service providers that are trying to meet the same objectives, with the same youth. The spin-offs are abundant. The visiting officer is leaving an impression with two captive audiences: the youths who frequent the centres as well as the older youth workers who serve as role models for their young clients.

Within that group of service providers are the youth workers who develop great skills in this role. These centres produce not only resilient and confident youths in their patrons, but also develop strong, innovative leaders among their staff. Many of these young staff members have all the desirable attributes needed in a potential police officer.

> **"These centres produce not only resilient and confident youths in their patrons, but also develop strong, innovative leaders among their staff."**

Sgt Lance Dudar, a recruiter for the City of Regina Police Service, has seen a large number of youth centre workers join the ranks of the Regina police. He describes the Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina as an excellent venue in which to help youth build skills for their future and to foster strong leaders for our community and potential future police officers.

Cst Emanuel Otitoju of Regina says he wanted to be a police officer from a very early age and the move from working as a youth worker to becoming a police officer was a natural one. He had worked at the youth centre for a number of years before being recruited and hired in 2005.

"Working at the Rainbow Youth Centre was the first step to becoming a police officer," says Otitoju. "It was a good way to get experience working with youth, especially troubled youth, from the inner city."

Both the youths and the youth workers see the police who attend the centre in a positive light. They see them making a difference in their lives.

While working with youth at the centre, Otitoju says some of them would ask what career interested him. He shared his enthusiasm for pursuing a career in policing and says the youth would often respond "me too!"

When asked about the common link between youth workers and police officers, Otitoju says the two share the same goals of wanting to work with young people and "make a difference in the community."

Interestingly, youth centre directors are looking for the same skill set, attributes and value system in their youth workers as those who are recruiting today's police officers. It has worked very well for the Regina Police Service and can work for other police departments. Next time you're wondering where the future police officers are, there may be two-generations' worth hanging out at your local youth centre. ■

ON THIN ICE

Tips for safe winter driving

Winter is back, and many police officers in Canada and other northern countries are once again tackling snowy, icy road conditions while on duty. In this article, Cst Dion Klassen of the RCMP's Police Driving Unit offers some common sense advice for officers to consider before heading out on the road.

By Cst Dion Klassen
Police Driving Unit
RCMP Training Academy

The first thing you should pay attention to is the vehicle you will be operating. For starters, you need to know if your police vehicle is front-wheel, rear-wheel or all-wheel drive. And, whatever the system, you should know how to operate it.

A common misconception is that four-wheel drive vehicles are safer than two-wheel drive vehicles. When properly used, a four-wheel drive vehicle will take off better on a slippery surface than a two-wheel drive vehicle. However, once in movement, turning and braking in these vehicles is no better than other vehicles.

In fact, a four-wheel drive truck or sports utility vehicle is heavier than a police car. This extra weight significantly increases stopping distances. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security when driving vehicles with four-wheel drive systems.

Winterizing your vehicle

When preparing your vehicle for the winter season, all four tires (not just the drive-axle tires) should be changed to certified winter grips. The operator of the vehicle needs to make sure this is done. I have been in the position where the tires have not been changed simply because I believed someone else would do it.

Second, the vehicle should be equipped with an ice scraper, fresh wiper blades and windshield washer fluid rated for the proper temperature range. You should also carry a survival kit geared to the climate where you travel with the vehicle.

Before going on any journey in the winter, make sure you properly warm up the vehicle and clear the windows, lights and light bar of any snow and ice. Don't minimize this step. Aside from ensuring proper visibility, it also portrays a more professional image. Consider how you would respond to a civilian operating a vehicle with the windows fogged up or covered in frost, ice or snow.

Controlled movements

At the training academy, we teach cadets to drive with a stable platform in a smooth and controlled manner. A stable platform is achieved when the vehicle's weight is distributed evenly over the four wheels. Avoid sudden weight shifts by not accelerating, braking or steering too hard. Drivers should also look high, use slight steering inputs as opposed to jerking the steering wheel back and forth, and accelerate and brake in a straight line.

When traction is decreased, as it often is in winter, these cumulative skills are even more important. Keeping speeds down and taking extra time on slippery surfaces is a key factor in safe winter driving.

Slides resulting from quick steering inputs on slippery surfaces can be corrected by steering into the skid. This means that once the car starts to go into an oversteer, you should look where you want to go and steer in the direction of the slide. For instance, steer the car to the right if the rear of the car swings out to the right.

One risk in emergency response driving is target fixation, which results when the driver follows too closely. Cadet training stresses safe following distances. This is even more important when driving in winter conditions. Greater distance gives you more time to react to hazards. On slippery roads, following distances must be greater than on roads with good traction.

Lastly, there will be times when the road and weather conditions are just too severe to safely venture out. If the weather changes quickly while on the road—to the point where it is too dangerous to continue—stop and wait out the weather. This may not be something law enforcement officers typically do because of their sense of duty. However, from a safety perspective, waiting for clear roads is no different than not rushing in on an armed offender.

Driving safely in winter can be achieved by using common sense: maintain your vehicle, know your abilities, give yourself more time and distance, and know when not to drive at all. ■

Leading others to safety

A first-hand account of evacuation from Lebanon

In July 2006, 10,000 Canadian evacuees arrived in Larnaca, Cyprus (population 60,000) from Lebanon desperately trying to get flights to Canada. The RCMP deployed S/Sgt Michael Labranche, its liaison officer based in Amman, Jordan, to help assess the situation, survey operations, advise staff on possible security problems and engage the local police. Here is his first-hand account.

By S/Sgt Michael Labranche
RCMP Liaison Officer
Amman, Jordan

Courtesy of S/Sgt Labranche

RCMP S/Sgt Michael Labranche stands at the Port of Limassol in Cyprus. Labranche helped with the evacuation of 13,000 Canadians from Lebanon—the largest evacuation in Canada's history.

I arrived in Larnaca, Cyprus, in the very early morning of July 20, 2006, where I met a small number of Canadian government officials who had also recently arrived. They were very busy preparing for the demands of thousands of Canadian citizens who would be arriving from Lebanon.

Everyone knew that arranging shelter, buses, food, water, security, communication and flights for thousands of people in a country with no Canadian embassy would not be an easy task. We also knew that Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who was returning from the G8 Summit via Paris, had offered to make available some space on his aircraft for refugees and that he would be landing shortly. In the end, about 100 Canadian evacuees returned on that flight.

The first wave

The Blue Dawn came to port a few hours later with about 250 Canadians. The evacuees were eventually brought to a hall for care and to be organized for their flights to Canada. That was the easy day—a prime ministerial visit and 250 evacuees.

A lot of important lessons on how to receive, assist and transport evacuees were learned that first day. These lessons served us well following the arrival of three subsequent ships carrying nearly 2,000 evacuees.

On the second day, in the midst of the flood of new evacuees, I helped establish contact and future daily meetings with the Cypriot Crisis Management Team. This team was headed by Cypriot Civil Defense to manage the influx of evacuees including foreign nationals.

The help of the Cypriot Civil Defense was immeasurable. As the number of evacuees rose, the team found us a second staging location, and then a third. It located, transported and set up some 1,600 camp beds—which made the sites livable—and deployed volunteers to assist at all these locations.

Pulling together

Communication between the team members and the Canadian evacuees was difficult during the first days. The Canadian evacuees had many questions about their flights and destinations and family members left behind. They had more questions than we were initially in a position to answer.

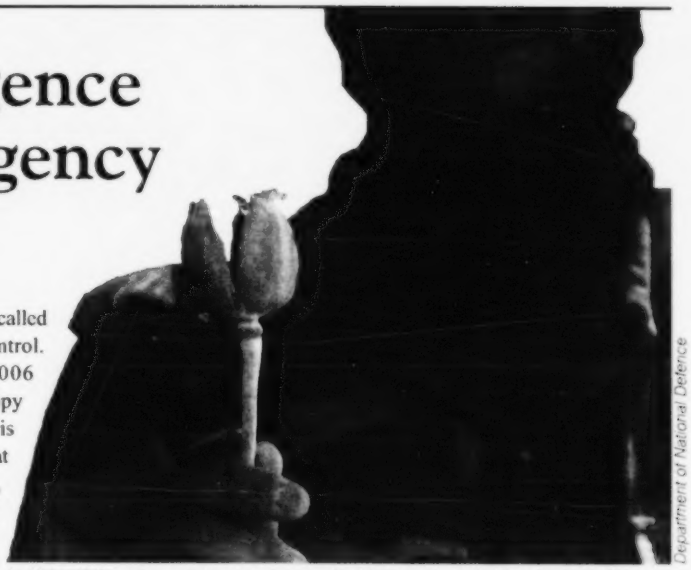
This put a lot of strain on the Canadian team working at the center of the crisis. To improve the situation, the management team met as a group with representatives from Foreign Affairs and International Trade, National Defence and Canadian Forces, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and me to develop a simple communications plan that proved remarkably effective. In essence, we made sure that all team members were speaking with one voice and that evacuees were informed right away about any developments that would affect them.

We also developed a system for engaging evacuees who could speak to others in Arabic and for identifying people for the next sequence of flights. We printed and distributed t-shirts with "volunteer" printed on the back. Evacuees—young men, women and even children—were recruited to help with such things as baggage handling, cleaning, food distribution and babysitting. This worked wonderfully and radically transformed the confused atmosphere of the first day.

Between July 20 and 31, about 13,000 Canadian evacuees were put on the three vessels chartered to travel between Beirut and Larnaca. They were sent to Canada on 42 flights. As a result of this combined approach, not one single serious incident occurred among the thousands of transported evacuees. ■

Criminal intelligence and narco-insurgency in Afghanistan

By RCMP Insp Paul Richards
Criminal Intelligence Advisor
Task Force Afghanistan, Kandahar



Department of National Defence

An Afghan National Army soldier holds a poppy after it has been harvested for opium gum. Opium poppy and marijuana fields are a common feature of the landscape of southern Afghanistan.

Canada's commitment to Afghanistan has concentrated on securing Kandahar province while building capacity among Afghan agencies and communities to eventually assume responsibility for securing the country under a democratically elected government.

In recent months, there has been an influx of both Taliban insurgents and Al-Qaeda terrorist supporters into Afghanistan, particularly in Kandahar Province, the historical and spiritual home of the Taliban movement. As Canadians are frequently reminded in the daily news, Canadian Armed Forces have been engaged in a difficult counter-insurgency campaign to dislodge the Taliban from the south and secure the countryside from Taliban control.

There is, however, another aspect to the situation in southern Afghanistan that has assumed increasing importance in strategically securing the south, and it is here where the RCMP's National Security Investigations (NSI) is contributing leadership and integrated service in a unique setting.

Based on 2006–07 estimates from the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the opium production from the poppy crop in Afghanistan now stands at all-time record levels. Citing significant increases in southern Afghanistan, the UNODC has also expressed its concern about narcotics being linked to the insurgency, with supply exceeding demand.

Currently, an estimated 92 per cent of the global opium supply (including heroin, which is a derivative of opium) is being produced in Afghanistan, a situation that the UN has called out of control. The 2006 opium poppy harvest is estimated at 6,100 tons, an increase of 59 per cent to a record 165,000 hectares under harvest. Kandahar's neighbouring province of Helmand had a 162-per-cent increase in 2006 with 70,000 hectares under cultivation.

With only six of Afghanistan's 34 provinces opium-free, the UN has expressed deep concern that southern Afghanistan is collapsing into a narco-state: large-scale drug cultivation and trafficking, insurgency and terrorism, crime and corruption.

The relationship between narco-traffickers and insurgents/terrorists is not a new one, as historical examples in Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Balkans prove. While drug cultivation in the so-called Golden Crescent region (Iran–Afghanistan–Pakistan) has ancient roots, the marked increase in drug cultivation in Afghanistan began during the insurgent campaign against the Soviet Union from 1979–1989. In order to fund and sustain the campaign against the Soviets, opium poppy harvesting and drug production became an easy source of revenue, creating a supply market for cheap opium and heroin while feeding into international criminal narcotics distribution networks.

Following the Soviet withdrawal after 1989 and subsequent civil war until 2001, opium and heroin production continued to increase save one year when the ruling Taliban government (citing religious grounds) invoked a nationwide ban on opium production. While apparently inexplicable at the time, in retrospect this was a strategic move on the part of the Taliban government to withhold opium and heroin stockpiles from the market and thereby increase the global demand and illicit market price.

Following 9/11 and subsequent Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 to liberate Afghanistan and install a democratic government, opium and heroin production have continued to be a problem for the central Afghan government. Securing the country under democratic rule means the Government of Afghanistan must be able to assert the rule of law, including its ban on opium production.

The security threat posed by both narcotics and the insurgency in southern Afghanistan must be considered separately and together, as narco-traffickers and the Taliban both profit from a symbiotic relationship.

The Taliban impose local levies on opium production and sale, as well as heroin laboratory production, profiting from the production of narcotics and their

sale in drug bazaars throughout the region. Narco-traffickers not only establish their trade within Taliban-controlled areas, but supply the Taliban with money, intelligence, weapons, ammunition and transport when needed.

This marriage of convenience is reciprocated by the Taliban, which provides security for narcotics exported across the Pakistan and Iranian borders. It also meets the overarching goal for both parties of maintaining instability in the south and thwarting the rule of Afghanistan's elected government under President Karzai.

Drug profiteering in Afghanistan has global links to organized-crime networks, including Canada. It is worth considering that a kilogram of the highest quality heroin at 90-per-cent purity in a drug bazaar sells in Kandahar for $3,000 US. When this same kilogram is transported and sold by Middle Eastern traffickers, its value increases to $30,000–$40,000 US. When it reaches the streets of Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, after purity has been cut to 60 per cent, the kilogram that originated in the fields of Afghanistan sells for approximately $120,000 CA ($100,000 US).

Organized crime groups profit substantially from feeding addiction, while narcotics production in Afghanistan feeds operations against Coalition and Afghan Forces.

Analysis required

Working over a 12-month period and based in Kandahar with the Canadian Forces Intelligence Branch, the role of the criminal intelligence advisor to Task Force Afghanistan is to collect, analyze and disseminate intelligence and information related to the nexus between the narcotics and the insurgency in Kandahar Province.

Given the high volume of intelligence flowing into the theatre of operations and the need for analysis, the advisor provides both expertise and products that allow military planners to understand where criminal activity and the insurgency are interconnected. This is vital to planning operations that interdict the insurgency and helps military commanders and planners to understand not only the lines of communication and supply, but also the centers of axes where Taliban insurgents and narco-traffickers are working to achieve similar goals.

It is imperative the advisor understand the contexts of agrarian economics, Afghan tribal society and micro-credit systems that fuel the illicit narcotics trade. Given the scope of the problem in southern Afghanistan, intelligence on key facilitators, nodes and networks is the first step to making the integrated response of the Canadian and international effort intelligence-led. The position, funded by Foreign Affairs Canada, also works to identify and improve intelligence capacity with Afghan law enforcement agencies, such as the Afghanistan National Police and the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan.

Working in this environment carries a high risk and the work is very challenging. Carrying out simple tasks, such as a meeting or visiting senior law enforcement officials, requires significant logistical planning given the high risk of attack against international personnel.

The scope of the problem in southern Afghanistan can appear overwhelming at times, given the burgeoning drug trade in southwest Asia. Previous solutions to narco-insurgency campaigns have been focused on wholesale eradication of cash crops through spraying, burning or destructive plowing.

In the case of Afghanistan, however, such measures in rural communities where Canadian soldiers are operating could have disastrous consequences by destroying the only cash crop available to many families and turning the entire rural population against Coalition Forces.

By concentrating on a long-term strategy of building alternative livelihoods, repairing agrarian infrastructure, and improving law enforcement capacity and intelligence-led operations, the Government of Canada maintains its vision to help Afghans overcome rural dependence on the opium poppy crop while targeting mid-to-high-level narco-traffickers who are assisting the Taliban in destabilizing Afghan society. ■

Insp Paul Richards stands next to 75 litres of opium resin and one kilogram of raw opium seized from a Taliban compound near Kandahar last July.

Courtesy Insp Paul Richards

Latest research in law enforcement

The following are excerpts from recent research related to justice and law enforcement. To view the full reports, please visit the website links at the bottom of each summary.

A review of the recidivism rates of adult female sexual offenders

By Franca Cortoni and Karl Hanson

The fact that women engage in sexually abusive behaviours has been established for many years, but it is only in recent years that concerted efforts have been made to study female sexual offenders.

One of the most important pieces of information concerns the potential of female sexual offenders to commit new sexual offences. The purpose of the current study is to review the available research on the recidivism rates of female sexual offenders.

It is clear that sexual offending is much more common among men than women. Compared to male offenders, results from this review indicate that women commit sexual offences at a ratio of approximately one to 20 based on both official reports and victimization surveys.

Previous literature reviews have suggested that sexual offending by women is not necessarily rare, but it is under-reported. The current review suggests victims of male sexual offenders and victims of female sexual offenders report their experience to the police at similar rates. If there is a differential under-reporting of female versus male sexual offenders, then this effect must operate at the level of individuals failing to identify the behaviour of female sexual offenders as a crime.

Our review showed that the sexual recidivism rate of female sexual offenders is extremely low. One percent of the female sexual offenders included in this review had come to the attention of the criminal justice system as a result of a new sexual offence. This rate is much lower than the overall 13.4 per cent sexual recidivism rate observed for male sexual offenders.

In contrast to the extremely low rates of sexual recidivism, the general recidivism is much higher. In this review, 20 per cent of the female sexual offenders were known to re-offend (6 per cent violently). It appears that female sexual offenders, like male sexual offenders, engage in a variety of offending behaviours.

The results from this review have implications for those professionals working with female sexual offenders.

First, it appears that evaluators should be more concerned about the risk of non-sexual recidivism than sexual recidivism in female sexual offenders.

Evaluators should be more concerned about the risk of non-sexual recidivism than sexual recidivism in female sexual offenders.

Second, the substantial difference in recidivism rates suggests that risk tools developed on male sexual offenders are unlikely to apply to women. Simply extrapolating from the male sexual offender literature to assess risk in female sexual offenders is likely to lead to invalid risk appraisal and unintended consequences.

The low sexual recidivism rate means that extremely large samples are required to establish empirically validated risk markers for sexual recidivism among female offenders. Only time and the accumulation of knowledge will permit such empirical validation.

For the full report, please visit :
http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rsrch/reports/r169/r169_e.shtml

Understanding the needs of the victims of sexual assault in the deaf community

By Jennifer Obinna, Sarah Krueger, Constance Osterbaan, Jane M. Sadusky and Wendy DeVore

This study examines the perceptions of deaf and hearing service providers who assist deaf individuals with the aftermath of sexual victimization and who individuals in the deaf community tell about their experiences of sexual assault. It also deals with what service gaps exist for the deaf community and what law enforcement agencies can do to be a more effective resource for members of the deaf community.

It is estimated that 83 per cent of women with disabilities will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Moreover, there is evidence to suggest that women with disabilities are abused by a greater number of perpetrators and are abused for longer periods of time than non-disabled women.

Research has barely begun to address whether persons with specific disabilities or deafness seek help after being victimized, who they seek help from, and how service providers and law enforcement officials can be most responsive to their needs.

These are important questions, especially regarding law enforcement. The nature of a police interaction can have serious implications for the sexual assault victim, can sometimes be a part of her/his experiences unwillingly and can inform future help-seeking with the hearing community.

This is a two-part study combining both an explanatory examination into the needs of the deaf community in relation to sexual victimization, and an investigation of the Minneapolis Police department's response to members of the deaf community who seek criminal justice intervention for sexual victimization.

Police are almost always thought of as a place to call for help and yet many discuss experiences in which contact with the police was frustrating. Few survivors even called the police after their experience with sexual abuse.

The institutional ethnography reveals areas where the Minneapolis Police Department experiences challenges when it comes to communication with deaf persons, whether as a victim, witness or suspect. Though there are policies and procedures for locating interpreters, little specific training about on-scene communication and initial recognition of whether someone is deaf is provided.

In addition, the links between the police department and members of the deaf community are not well developed. Unfortunately, due to reporting practices, it is difficult to obtain a reliable picture of the frequency and extent of police interaction with persons who are deaf. Even with all of these challenges, it is important to note that the Minneapolis Police Department can be characterized as a "model" jurisdiction in serving members of the deaf community.

Efforts to reinstate and expand crime prevention efforts such as the deaf SAFE program and Community Solutions are critical to continuing to be a leader in this work. Using the workshop approach in the community policing model, the tools will develop and strengthen officers' overall understanding of aspects of deaf communication, ASL as a language and deaf culture. It will also create opportunities for officers to learn and practice ASL and other approaches to communication.

It is recommended that both hearing and deaf communities educate themselves about responding to deafness and protection of one's self, respectively. With additional education and dialogue, it is suggested the prevention of and response to sexual victimization will improve.

For the full report, please visit : ***http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=234353***

The results suggest that police officers should approach suspected sex offenders in an open-minded manner that displays humanity rather than dominance, to maximize the likelihood of a confession.

An investigation into the effective and ethical interviewing of suspected sex offenders

By Mark Kebbell, Emily Hurren and Paul Mazerolle

Unlike most other criminal offences, sex offences usually occur within personal settings with few if any corroborating witnesses, so a conviction may rely on the victim's word against that of the offender.

The focus of this research project was to identify ways of improving police interviewing of suspected sex offenders and identifying factors that might increase the likelihood of a guilty offender confessing. The research uses interviews with convicted sex offenders in the first study, surveys of convicted sex offenders in the second study, experimental laboratory methods in the third study and interviews with experienced police officers in the fourth study.

Synthesising the four studies allows some conclusions to be made. Other researchers have shown that police officers usually elicit less detailed and accurate accounts than are possible from eyewitnesses and then have difficulty remembering that account so that they may be poor at presenting this evidence in a credible way to a suspect.

Given that all four studies indicated that evidence is likely to play an important part in many suspects' decisions to confess or deny, the implication is that evidence, especially eyewitness evidence, must be conscientiously collected, familiarized and presented to the suspect in a convincing way. Specific ways in which police officers can improve their presentation of evidence to suspects need to be devised and evaluated.

The results of studies one, two and four suggest that police officers should approach suspected sex offenders in an open-minded manner that displays humanity rather than dominance, to maximize the likelihood of a confession. Again, quite how these strategies can be communicated to suspected sex offenders is worthy of future research. Importantly, as indicated by study four, experienced police officers, in sex crime investigations in Queensland at least, seem to be supportive of these approaches and have considerable insight into how effective interviews should be conducted.

Studies one and two suggest that minimization, maximization and displaying an understanding of cognitive distortions may also be effective strategies. Nevertheless, caution must be exercised to ensure compliance with legislation. Police officers need to be clearly informed about what is legally permissible in suspect interviews. At present, many officers are not clear about how the relevant legislation is interpreted, especially when terms are used in a non-defined and general manner.

Taken together, the strategies outlined here are in theory likely to increase confessions from guilty suspects while treating them fairly. In turn, the likelihood of achieving justice for the victims of sex crime is potentially increased. ■

For the full report, please visit: ***http://www.aic.gov.au/crc/reports/200304-12.html***

Connecting data points

The National Risk Assessment Centre

By Chris Thatcher

"It is a massive amount of data to sift through," Calvin Christiansen acknowledges after surveying a room of analysts, technicians and investigators who receive streams of information every hour of every day from around the globe.

"To be as data rich as we are is a bit overwhelming. But the Canada Border Services Agency has made a lot of smart investments in how we deal with this data. Before, we had boxes full of paper at various places all over the country and it was difficult to put together a picture."

In the days following September 11, 2001, border security became of paramount importance. Billions of dollars of goods and millions of people entered the country each year. Yet Canada had at best an incomplete understanding of their true origins. Ideas to improve that picture were discussed prior to 9/11 and the shock of that event accelerated many of them.

Before the year was up, Canada and the United States had signed the Smart Border Declaration, a 30-point action plan to, among other objectives, extend the border. By establishing a virtual border at the point of departure for goods and people, Canadian points of entry would become the last rather than first line of defence.

Two years later, in late 2003, the government created the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), a new organization integral to its forthcoming national security policy to integrate the expertise of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA), Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Under the umbrella of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the CBSA combined functions: the customs program from CCRA; the intelligence, interdiction and enforcement program, and the immigration program at ports of entry from CIC; and the import inspection program from CFIA. The goal was to better manage and monitor the movement of people and goods across the border.

> **"We like to think of CBSA as having a multiple border strategy, pushing the borders out beyond the traditional borders as we've thought of them,"**
>
> *– Calvin Christiansen*

"We like to think of CBSA as having a multiple border strategy, pushing the borders out beyond the traditional borders as we've thought of them," says Christiansen, director of the National Risk Assessment Centre (NRAC), a 24-7 operation housed in a nondescript building in an Ottawa business park that gathers and analyzes data on passengers and goods destined for Canada, and when necessary issues arrest warrants for those deemed illegal aliens or in violation of deportation orders.

Like the CBSA itself, NRAC was a creation of departmental mergers. The goal of advanced passenger screening—receiving passenger data from all international flights prior to departure for Canada—presented an enormous challenge. With 45,000 international arrivals every day, the volume of personal data was staggering. Neither CCRA nor CIC, the two departments responsible for customs and immigration, could manage the data. Each independently pitched the idea of an assessment centre.

"That data was the main driver for forming NRAC," Christiansen says. "When the legislation went through, CCRA had to figure out how to deal with it. Was it appropriate for us to have all of this personal data? How would we receive it from the airlines? What would we look at? And how would we manage and store it? We did a privacy impact assessment through the office of the privacy commissioner, but we knew we needed a way to deal with this data."

The proposal to create NRAC was not without its critics. Commentators and politicians alike raised the spectre of Big Brother. An agreement was reached with the privacy commissioner to restrict what analysts could view, blacking out certain fields on their screens. The agreement also placed restrictions on user profiles, limiting what "different users can look at over different periods of time," Christiansen says. "We had to be aware of the public concern about this massive database of personal information, so we adopted a phased in approach that has only been at full steam over the last eight months."

The restrictions mean that while CBSA can provide certain information to CSIS or the RCMP, neither agency has direct access to the data. "If we need to deal with them on an issue, such as someone that is high risk, there are agreements in place," he says. "The information is passed on to our intelligence arm, which then deals with the respective agencies."

NRAC relies on what Christiansen calls a 'layered approach' to weed out dangerous passengers. While he won't disclose the number of high-risk ones the

agency identifies, he says the numbers can fluctuate dramatically, an experience he equates to his years as a customs official. There were days at border crossings when "all of a sudden the parking lot was full. You'd think, 'where did they all come from and why does every single one look like a bad person today?' "

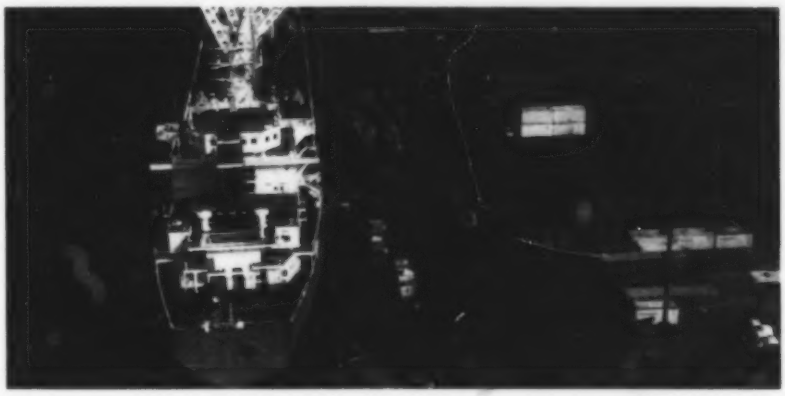
Commercial screening

With as many as 8,000 Canada-bound containers departing from hundreds of ports worldwide each day, analyzing the flood of commercial data has been equally challenging.

As of April 2004, all shippers are required to submit 24 hours before departure data on containers destined for Canada. That notice allows NRAC to assess each container, and when suspicion arises, it co-ordinates with local authorities to examine the container.

"If we're concerned that the quality of the data isn't there to make a decision, we issue what's called a Do Not Load notice to the shipping line, and we'll ask for better or more data."

While illegal goods of all sorts pass through the world's ports, NRAC's focus is on those "that cause grievous harm," Christiansen says. "We're looking for the big ones: chemical, biological, nuclear, radiation technology and explosives. We'll flag things that might be of interest to the port authority. Mis-described goods or narcotics are flagged to be examined at the point of entry."



Model program

Like Canada, the United States has combined its immigration and customs functions under the auspices of one central department, Homeland Security. Christiansen expects greater global co-operation as Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. create or expand the scope of similar assessment centres. "We have met between the five countries to figure out if there are better ways to progress. We haven't struck a relationship like what we have with the U.S., but there is some good potential there."

NRAC has attracted international attention and could become a global model. Today, with access to advanced data, it has identified high-risk travellers that might not have been identified five years ago. "They might have been caught by the officer at the primary or the secondary line, but we can now identify them ahead of the game," he says.

NRAC's greatest success—and its lesson to others—may not be the numbers of goods or individuals it flags, but it's a more complete understanding of the patterns of high-risk passengers and the origin of dangerous goods.

"We have a much better understanding of how goods get to Canada," he says. "We can see where cargo is coming from. With all those boxes of paper, it was very hard to piece together before. The chain would start at the seaport or land border or airport. We now have a much better sense of the trade chain—which countries the goods passed through. We also understand the nature of the risk—be it the importer, the exporter, the shipper, the shipping company, the dock workers or others." ■

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Warrant Response Centre

CBSA issues arrest warrants under the authority of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), and manages that information in the automated Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system. If an officer gets a hit while checking a name in CPIC, NRAC is notified and co-ordinates the arrest with a dispatch officer and the local authority to complete the requirements of the warrant. Warrants with identifiers such as photos are maintained by NRAC.

Previously Deported Persons

The centre ensures files on all people deported are maintained within CPIC. If a deported person reappears in Canada and is arrested, the local authority is notified.

Advanced Passenger Information

Prior to departure for Canada from any foreign location, including the U.S., all airlines must submit to NRAC a passenger list. While the aircraft is in flight, NRAC personnel review the data for high-risk persons. If anyone is identified, the point of entry is notified.

Advanced Commercial Information

Information on all containers intended for Canada must be submitted to NRAC 24 hours before being loaded on to a vessel in a foreign port. Containers are identified as low or high risk, and any shipment that raises suspicions is held until NRAC can co-ordinate an inspection through the CBSA intelligence directorate with the port authority or foreign government.

Building relationships

The following is an excerpt from remarks made by Commissioner Bev Busson during the 2006 International Conference for Police and Police Officer Executives in Vancouver.

Warren Buffett, the highly respected CEO of one of the world's best-known companies, said, "It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to lose it."

Because of modern technology and global communications that move in a nanosecond there appears to be no place left to hide, no time to think strategically, and no room for error. Our reputation... our trusted relationships, both externally and internally...appear to be precariously balanced in a publicly exposed, daily high-wire act performed without a net. The good news is that there is indeed a safety net, and it is called trust.

Trust is an interesting concept. It can mean different things to different people. To our citizens and our communities, it often means that police will be there when called, regardless of how urgent the situation is. It also means a public acknowledgment of the high degree of professionalism and training associated with policing. Most of all, public trust in policing means a sense of safety and security.

To our internal policing personnel, trust can mean something else. It often means leadership that has moved beyond outdated command and control models. It means a leadership style that is sensitive to both emotional and knowledge needs, and that puts a high priority on two-way communication and effective listening. It means leadership that walks the talk, shows competency and compassion, and provides very clear criteria for authority, accountability and responsibility.

When things are going well, trust is something that lives quietly under the surface. We don't usually think much about how trust is helping sustain our relationships. In a crisis, that all changes. A sudden event posing a threat to safety, security and reputation is a test of trusting relationships.

During a catastrophic event, communication increases dramatically, but it is also highly fragmented. You get bits and pieces of information, not all of it credible, complete or accurate. Public fear is the first emotion rising to the forefront in a crisis because there is a sense of powerlessness and the unknown. In a crisis, people hope for the best, but expect the worst; they often believe the threat is far greater than it is.

During a crisis, our own personnel have both a personal and professional need for control over what's happening. They have a need to be continually and accurately informed—two factors that help reduce human fear. Trusted relationships ensure that such internal empowerment and knowledge takes place at all levels of policing.

In a crisis, the public—and especially the news media—demand information now. Public fear can be quickly followed by anger and a demand for immediate corrective action. And when that doesn't happen—when communication and actions get delayed or short-circuited—the blame game starts and fingers begin pointing. These can appear in all crises, but the magnitude and frequency is determined by pre-existing levels of trusted relationships.

It is very difficult to build trusting relationships with our communities and clients unless there is a solid core of internal trust. We know that our personnel look for a few basic things. They need to know what an organization stands for and its direction and its vision. They need to know how they personally fit into that direction and vision. They need to be recognized for their work and talents, to get feedback, and to have a say in what's going on.

Police forces throughout North America have enjoyed overall public trust levels of between 65 and 80 per cent—among the highest of any profession. In part, this is because of the excellent work we do, but it is also because the public deeply needs to trust their police force if they are to feel safe and secure. No other profession, particularly in Canada, is empowered by law to use deadly force if necessary to protect citizens from death and danger.

The three basic questions, "Am I safe?" "Do you know what you're doing?" and "Can I trust you?" are not restricted to the general public. The three questions are also on the minds of our partner agencies, our clients and our personnel. They, too, need to feel safe in their work with us. They need to see professionalism and competence demonstrated through our daily actions, and they need relationships based on trust.

Communications may be the conduit that connects organizations, but trust is the glue that binds positive relationships. To maintain trusting relationships, to keep our bank of goodwill topped up, we have to continually be attentive to the factors that define trust. We have to display competency, demonstrate the value of experience, and remain consistent in our actions while at the same time adaptable to changing circumstances. We need to combine two-way communications with connectivity and co-operation with others, and be willing to share authority, responsibility and accountability. ■